

# Langley Fitzurse C of E Primary School

## Chameleon Class Newsletter

### Overview of learning for Autumn Term 2017

#### Learning Theme: Vile Victorians & their Polar Explorers



We will be exploring different genres of writing in our **Narrative Unit**: focusing on developing VCOP in our writing especially our Story Openers and as a result helping us to confidently experiment ways in which to “grip” our readers’ interest and how to sustain this throughout our writing. We will also be investigating the differences between narrative story writing and play scripts ready for our Christmas Panto. Our Non Fiction Unit will be Explanation/Report based on our Science and History investigations and finally we will be looking at different areas of descriptive poetry. ☺ Our class based spelling focus will be to identify words within words to help us access harder spellings. As a Home Activity Weekly spellings will be a ‘designer fit’ for your Chameleon apart from Learning themed words which everyone will “have a go” at learning as they are integral to laying a foundation to our overall science understanding. ☺ We’ve been lucky enough to confirm a place at the Chippenham Library to meet Angie Sage; Author of the bestselling ‘Septimus Heap’ & ‘Todhunter Moon’ Series on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**—unlucky for some— but not us! ☺

#### MATHS

We have a wide range of mathematical learning to **BLAST** us off to a good start: place value\_ identifying the value of larger numbers, including decimals; using > and <; rounding numbers and decimals to the nearest whole number. Discovering the different functions of fractions and what they represent; linking fractions with their equivalents and finding amounts of whole numbers which will link with some of the trickier Mental maths questions in Book 5 & 6. ☺ We’ll also make links with art/ DT USING William Morris designs to identify symmetrical patterns.

#### SCIENCE

This term Chameleon is investigating Light: the eye’s structure, its function as well as some experiments linked with light. We shall also link this to Art where we’ll attempt to draw a realistic eye. In conjunction with our 5-Star Assessment criteria, we’ll be learning some singing science songs to revise our scientific enquiry skills; reminding us of how to process our experiments confidently. We will also be using Microsoft excel to record our findings when possible, using the wizard graph tool. Changing materials will also be a focus during term 2 where it will link strongly with our Polar Explorers’ quest. As in previous terms, there will be science links with weekly spelling to help develop a clearer understanding of more challenging scientific vocabulary. ☺

**HISTORY** We'll be immersing ourselves in Victorian history and artefacts. A fantastic focus: lifestyle, education, The Great Exhibition and polar explorers are all on our list to investigate further. If time allows we will also include a Victorian Day and enjoy sampling some of their yummy tea-time treats in period costume. 😊 😊

**ICT** To start off the year we will be examining the need for e-safety so that we can use topic linked web-sites confidently when investigating the Victorians. Year 5 will be introduced to the benefits of using Microsoft Publisher, whilst Year 6 will be sharing and further developing their skills so that the whole class can aim to confidently produce a piece of **Journalistic Writing**. Chameleon practise their weekly spellings on the Starspell programme for further consolidation. 😊

**RE** **Beliefs in action in the world:** this will include discussions about fairness and justice in the world and **identifying** the qualities needed to take action to bring about what is right and good. We will also be expressing our ideas through "Art in Heaven" spiritual art focusing on one of the following titles to inspire us: *Stories that change lives; Questions: Big, bigger, biggest; Where is God? And Faith or Doubt?*

**PE** Chameleon will be increasing their 'invasion games' skills in both Netball and Tag Rugby during terms 1 & 2 on **Fridays** in conjunction with alternate Dance sessions and Swimming lessons on **Thursdays**. We're combining the same format for Swimming as last year to allow for maximum progress within individual year groups: Year 5 will be swimming in Terms 1, 3 & 5 with year 3's, whilst year 6 will be swimming during terms 2, 4 & 6 along with Year 2 & 4. P.E. kits should be brought in on Mondays please as I will be including an extra PE session on Wednesdays when possible. 😊 **Home at weekends for deponging please!** 😊 We have Year 6 Cycling proficiency lessons organised during term 2 after our exciting Stackpole week, which will be jammed packed with outdoor activities from 6-10<sup>th</sup> of November. 😊😊 Keep a look out for kit lists and medical forms lurking deep down in your Cham's book bag in the next few weeks please. :o)

**MUSIC** We're going to develop our ability to sing and play music in two (or more) parts; exploring the effect of two or more pitched notes sounding together – harmony. We'll also be practising our Panto songs ready for our KS2 performance in December this year. 😊

**ART/DT** We will be investigating Impressionism: artists and applying their techniques. We'll also be using William Morris' work as an inspirational resource to discover printing techniques and explore incredible designs and of course creating our own.



**FRENCH** In French this term we will focus on learning to use a bi lingual dictionary and also on correct pronunciation using a French version of Jolly Phonics. Linked to the Victorian topic we will learn about Queen Victoria's visit to the Great Exhibition in Paris, and also the French traditions of La Toussaint and St Sylvestre.

**PD** We will be linking our Chameleon chats to 'New Beginnings' and how we individually, and as a group, adjust to change. We're starting the year off with our 5 school values and will be looking at them in detail throughout the term. In addition to PD lessons, circle times will be used regularly to help us concentrate on each other's thoughts and feelings as well as having the opportunity to contribute our own. We will also use our class council 'voice' to develop our speaking and listening skills. 😊

**Cham's Homework:** Mental Maths books will be handed out on Mondays to be completed during the week and handed in on Thursdays. Weekly Spellings (purple book) will also be issued on Mondays and due on Friday mornings please. We have Weekend Homework given out either on Thursday/ Friday depending on the focus, which has then to be handed in on Monday mornings alongside the children's Reading Journals which should include parents' comments on the reading heard over the weekend. There is a minimum of 1,000 points to be achieved on a weekly basis, on **Mathletics: any time between Monday - early Sunday evening before the time slot ends.**

Home Reading and times tables practise should be regular learning slots: this being Year 5 & 6's own responsibility to practise as much as possible on a weekly basis so that they can fine tune them for our daily mental starters and Mental Maths homework. **Current reading books and journals should be a permanent fixture in reading folders and should be used to record your child's weekly home sessions.** Thanks.

### **Helping in school:**

Help in class or elsewhere around the school is always appreciated. If you have some spare time to hear readers, work with a group or to share a skill or hobby, please pop in to arrange a time. If you would like to help on a more regular basis, please let me know so I can put you on the timetable and plan how I can best use your help.

Ta mUchly,

Linda H-H 😊