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Welcome back to SMITH! We hope you all had a tremendous summer. We cannot wait to welcome you all back for your final year at St.Michael’s. While Year 6 does present with challenges, our curriculum is full of exciting concepts that we know you will love. If you want to keep updated on what is going on, please keep checking our school Twitter **(@st\_michaels\_ham)** and your child’s Class Dojo page, where we will share the children’s work and regular updates.

**Physical Education**

PE will be on **Mondays and Fridays**. We ask that children arrive to school in full PE kits. This must consist of a white top, black shorts and black shoes. Children should not attend school in football tops or crop tops. If on one particular week this cannot be the case, children must attend school with a signed parent letter. PE will incorporate a range of activities that will aim to develop personal fitness, teamwork and sportsmanship.

**English**

In Autumn 1, we will continue and finish our work on the novel **The Nowhere Emporium**, which we started reading in Year Five. The children will develop their reading skills with this rich narrative, and use these reading experiences to support stretching writing opportunities, including descriptive narratives and diaries. As part of our celebration of Black History Month, our second English focus will be on the Windrush Generation. The main vehicle for this learning will be The Place for Me: Stories About the Windrush Generation. This text looks at the impact of Windrush on a variety of different people’s lives. It will provide the children with a rich non-fiction counter point for both their reading and writing. Our poetry focus, looking at some of the works of the local poet **Levi Tafari,** will complement the previous Windrush learning with themes of roots and love.

In Autumn 2, we will develop our use of dialogue within narrative, using the books **Star of Fear, Star of Hope** alongside our core reading text **Once**. Building on these experiences of alienation and displacement, the children will be exposed to the graphic novel **The Arrival** by Shaun Tan. This rich illustration-only text will be used to write a first-person perspective letter, detailing their experiences from a more fictitious basis. We will finish the term by analysing classic Christmas-themed texts, song and poetry – using them to create poetry of our own to perform at our Christingle service.

**Maths**

In Maths this term, Year 6 will be recapping and building upon our knowledge of the four operations and place value. We will explore numbers up to 10 million as well as Roman numerals and rounding. We will then move onto to exploring the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also conquer the surprisingly fun long multiplication and division using formal methods. The second half of the term will focus on fractions and measurement, developing skills previously sharpened in Year Five.

**Reading: at school and at home**

At St.Michaels, we prioritise reading because of the numerous benefits that it can bring. Each class will have a class novel and we will also explore a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry throughout the school year. We actively encourage you to read with your child at home to create that love of reading. They are never too old to be read a story to at home! We will also be able to track and reward home reading through the use of Track My Read. This should act as additional motivation for the children.

**Science**

In science, we will be exploring light and sight this half-term. We will look at why shadows form and why light travels so fast. We will gather real life examples in the world around us and conduct a number of experiments to test our hypotheses. In Autumn 2, we will then look at how to classify animals and habitats by a variety of criteria.

**History**

In Autumn we will be looking at the The History of Crime and Punishment. The children will be learning about over two-thousand years of crime and punishment, focussing on eras as diverse as the Roman Empire and Victorian Britain.

**Geography**

In Autumn our focus will be on the topic: Global Trade – characteristics of world countries: Could the UK thrive without imports? The children will discover where a lot of the food they purchase in the supermarket originates, and how we have interdependence for these products.

**Music**

In Music the children follow the Kapow Y6 curriculum, firstly looking at the work of Mendelsohn, then with a focus on the songs of World War Two. There will be a recurring focus on the concept of ‘pitch’.

**Art and Design**

In Art the focus will be on landscapes. Using different medium and techniques, the children will develop their work through the use of perspectives and vanishing points.

**Design Technology**

In Design and Technology, we will be creating our very own ‘liver’ birdhouses. We will at a range of different joints and joining mechanisms. We will also be researching different styles of bird houses, while discussing what makes a bird house both ergonomically and aesthetically pleasing.

**Religious Education**

In RE, we will be attempting to answer the question: What does religion say to us when life gets hard? Whilst learning about the different perspectives from a number of religions, the children will also explore more philosophical ideas, such as ‘what is a soul?’

**Computing / Digital Literacy**

This half-term, the children will be continuing to look at online safety and developing more of an awareness about how we can keep ourselves safe online. We will also be using iMovie to create a sound and motion film.

**Swimming**

Year 6 will be attending swimming this term. 6H will be attending swimming during Autumn 1 and then in Autumn 2, it will be the turn of 6C. The children will be attending Wavertree Lifestyles on **Fridays**. Children must bring appropriate swimwear, a towel and a swimming cap. All children are expected to attend swimming and if we can assist with any reasonable adjustments, please inform one of the Year 6 teachers.

We are incredibly excited to start the year with Year 6 and we know that this will be our best Year 6 class yet! Please feel free to contact any member of the staff team should you require any further information.

Best wishes,

The Year 6 Team.