Y6F - Autumn Half Term (September to October 2018)

We have enjoyed new challenges in Year 6 so far this term and have worked hard on improving our presentation and handwriting.

**English:**

We are reading a new adventure story as part of our English lessons: The Secrets of a Sun King! We have discovered some unusual ancient artefacts and have written some detailed descriptions about our Egyptian canopic jars. To do this, we have been practising using dictionaries and thesauruses to improve our word choices and to allow us to use more ambitious vocabulary. We have been using prepositional phrases to create more precise descriptions.

**Maths:**

In maths, we have been focusing on ‘Number and Place Value,’ ‘Addition and Subtraction’ and ‘Multiplication and Division.’ We now understand the importance of using place value headings wherever possible and are practising using them to help us every day. We are continually checking our work for any mistakes and are asking for help when we need it. We found division a little confusing at times (especially long division) but we are working hard to persevere. We all look forward to the reasoning challenge sessions we have done so far and our “Growth Mindset” attitude is really paying off. It’s been tricky, but we just keep going to get it right! We are loving Times Table Rockstars and we practise daily to improve our speed and challenging others to a battle . At the moment, we are top of the leader board of schools in our area!

**Science:**

We have looked at light this half term and have first tested our prior knowledge. When we discussed the topic, we realised that whilst we did know some things about light, we were unsure how it helped us see. With the help of some wool to demonstrate the light’s path, we now understand that light travels in straight lines from the source, it bounces off the object and into our eyes! Interesting stuff! We look forward to learning more about light and about how it can be linked with our next topic - ‘Electricity’ - after half term.

**PE:**

We have been very active this half term and have enjoyed coaching sessions from Miss Fox from High Tunstall School. She has been teaching us all about Sports Hall Athletics and has really put us through our paces! We have learnt all about how to use our bodies to help us to run faster, how to throw a javelin correctly and safely, how to perform long jump and many more activities. It is all in preparation for the Sports Hall Athletics competition next half term. I wonder who will be chosen to represent the school this time.

**History and geography:**

The Ancient Egyptians have been the focus of our history topic this half term. We have used our atlas skills to locate Egypt on a world map and have looked at the other countries around it. We have looked at different aspects of Egyptian life and have used ICT to research and answer some of the questions we had about this ancient civilisation. We have researched the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb and learned that a lot of the antiquities discovered weren’t even meant for him (including one of his coffins) because his burial was rushed – there was even some question as to whether his famous death mask was second hand! We look forward to continuing our studies next half term – especially mummification.

**Art:**

We have explored the life and works of the famous Swiss sculptor, Alberto Giacometti. Analysing his various works of art, such as ‘pointing man’ and ‘walking man,’ we were able to discuss the techniques he used when creating his sculptures and the inspiration behind them. With the information we had gathered, we were able to write a biography for Giacometti and carefully copied an example of his work. We noticed the similarities between his angular figures and those of Ancient Egyptian wall paintings. We then went on to use these findings as inspiration for our own work and drew the outline of one of his sculptures before combining it with Ancient Egyptian features. This was a great way to bring both topics together and we coloured them using pencil. We have also designed our own exquisitely elaborate canopic jars to link to our writing and have carefully drawn Tutankhamun’s death mask, paying attention to detail.

**PSHE/RE:**

We have looked at friendship and tolerance this half term in PSHE. We have discussed what it means to be a good friend and how we can be kind to others. We have also looked at celebrations and rituals in different religions and have talked about the different beliefs that children have in our class.