



Year 6 topic introduction – Making New Materials

Dear Parents,

Over the next four weeks those of us in Year 6 will be following a unit of work on a theme that focuses on ‘Making New Materials’.

This unit of work is part of the International Primary Curriculum. This new curriculum sets out very clearly what children will learn – the learning goals – in three different areas:

1. The subjects of the curriculum. The learning goals for each of these subjects are at least as challenging as anything taught in the curriculum in your child’s own country. In many cases, the learning goals are more challenging.
2. Personal development – the characteristics which will help children become more responsible, independent learners.
3. International understanding – which will help children develop both a sense of the independence of their own country and culture and the interdependence between countries and cultures.

Each unit of work is based around specific targets derived from the learning goals for one or more of the subjects.

During this unit we will be focusing on Science, Technology, History, Art and International.

In Science, we’ll be finding out:

- About the chemistry of cooking
- What happens when we dissolve or melt things
- About gases and what they are
- About different materials used in the kitchen
- About conductors and insulators
- About magnetic materials and their uses
- How to separate mixtures by sieving, filtering and evaporating

In Technology, we’ll be finding out:

- How to make our own clay
- How glass is made
- How to create a brand new material

In History, we’ll be finding out:

- About the importance of bronze, iron and clay
- About wax, papyrus and paper



In Art, we'll be finding out:

- How artists use different materials in their work
- How to choose materials to express an idea

In International, we'll be finding out:

- How different countries work together to invent new materials

All of the work we are going to do has been specially written to help your child reach the learning goals. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. We will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and asking children to explain their work, perhaps to you.

We already know the interest you take in your child's work. If you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you. Allow your child to watch you when you cook the family meal because you are both a cook and a chemist. Hard-boiling an egg or baking a cake involves transformations of the ingredients, e.g. the liquid egg turns to a solid when it is boiled; air bubbles in the cake mixture expand in the oven, making the cake light and spongy. Together with your child, look for other examples in your home where changes to materials are taking place and discuss the processes involved.

If your child has some work to research, please help them, but without actually doing the work. If you have the chance to further their interest in the ideas of this theme please take it, but your enthusiasm and interest is most important.

By the end of the unit, we hope your child has achieved all of the learning targets. We hope they have had an enjoyable time in the classroom. And we hope you have enjoyed seeing your child work with enthusiasm.

If you have any comments or questions about your child's learning, please get in touch.

Kind regards,
Andrew Lowery
Year 6 Leader