

Welcome to Year 6



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! We hope that you have enjoyed the Christmas holiday and that you are looking forward to what we have planned this half term. We are going to have a fantastic Spring term and we have lots of wonderful learning activities planned for the children.

We hope that by working together we can make this term a happy and very productive one for your child, offering them interesting and challenging activities and experiences and ensuring that they make the best possible progress with their learning.

Coming up this half term we will be learning all about WW2. This half term Year 6 will begin their SATs practice both in school and with their revision session on Tuesdays between 3:30 and 4:30. These sessions will benefit each individual children and we would love to see all of the children in these sessions.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to pop in for a chat (the best time is at 3.20 pm). We will be happy to speak to you and/or make an appointment for a more lengthy discussion.

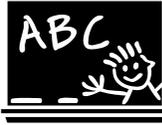
Yours sincerely

Miss McLoughlin



Please look inside...

Some Important Reminders...



Start of the day. We would be grateful if you would ensure that your child arrives on the school yard by 8.45. This means that they are ready for the doors opening at 8.50 and they can take part in their early bird tasks.

End of the day. Children should be collected at 3.20. Children who do not walk home on their own should be picked up by their parents or carers from the door located next to nursery.

Uniforms and Coats. As the oldest in the school, Year 6 set the example, so we would be grateful if you could make every effort to ensure that your child wears full school uniform at all times - including black school shoes. We would be grateful if these could be clearly named. Please ensure children bring a coat to school everyday, even if the weather is warm that morning. The English weather can soon change so we like to be prepared!

PE. This term P.E. lessons will be on a **Friday afternoon**. Children can attend school dressed in their P.E. kits. Please ensure that your child has a full P.E. kit including comfortable black plimsolls. No jewellery should be worn on P.E. days and long hair should be tied back.

Reading. Your child has a daily reading session with their class teacher. They also have an opportunity to read their new reading book on a 1:1 basis with an adult in class each week. It is therefore vital that reading books are returned everyday. A shared reading session at home is very valuable. You can write a comment or simply sign your child's Home-Link Reading Record Book so they can move on our Eager Reader's race.

Learning and Home: As per our new learning at home agreement, children are expected to read at home at least 3 times a week for 20 minutes. Children should also be practising their times tables and spellings multiple times per week. Your child will have a new spelling rule sent home each Friday, please discuss this with them. Please return home work books each Wednesday.

Finally can we please remind parents that jewellery, sweets (including **chewing gum**) and mobile phones are not allowed in school as responsibility can not be taken for any loss or damage.

Thank you for your continued support, it really makes a difference!

This half term our theme: This half term, children will be learning about World War 2. Links will be made within DT lessons where children research, design and make Anderson shelters. They will also look at methods of preventing light from travelling and how this was used as a method of protection for British citizens during The Blitz.

English: In English we will be reading 'When the sky falls' by Phil Earle' and using it as a basis for their own writing. They will be using this text to look at the ways in which authors include historical facts and information within their writing whilst keeping the narrative interesting for the reader. will be identifying the ways in which authors create specific atmospheres and then using this technique when writing their own descriptive narrative. This half term we will begin our preparations for the SATs tests and will look at the skills needed in order to answer questions based on a text. We encourage all of the children to read frequently at home.

Maths: In maths this half term we will be continuing our unit of work on fractions. The children will be learning to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions and will apply their prior learning of BODMAS in order to solve problems related to fractions. Children will also have a weekly place value lesson where they will re-cap previous learning. This will help us to recall strategies which can be used to answer arithmetic questions. The children will also begin to look at ratio and proportion as well as how to form equations.

History: This half term in history we will be learning all about World War 2. We will begin by looking at key events in history and placing them on a timeline. This will help us to see where WW2 is in relation to other time periods. We will then look at how the war began, with German invading Poland. We will locate on a map of Europe all of the countries which Germany invaded during the war and will learn about allies and who they were. We will learn about the life of Adolf Hitler and will show an understanding of his involvement in the war. We will also be learning about the role of women during the war, what rationing was, why it was necessary and why children had to be evacuated for their own safety.

Science: In science this half term we will be learning all about light. We will begin by trying to answer the question 'can light bend?' and will experiment with torches in order to investigate this. We will use mirrors in order to see how light is reflected. We will be recapping our previous learning around shadows and will investigate whether the distance from a light source changes the shape and clarity of a shadow. We will be looking at the work of Isaac Newton and finding out what he discovered about light. We will also be identifying which sources of light are natural and which are man-made.

DT: In design technology, the children will be carrying out market research in order to design and make their own Anderson Shelters. They will find out which materials were used and why they were chosen. They will think careful about the materials which they will use to create their own shelters and will evaluate the effectiveness of their designs.

French: In French this half term the children will be begin by reading a story about the cake which is eaten on the Epiphany in France, la Galette. They will be learning the names of the months of the year and asking others when their birthday is and responding. They will be asking how someone else is and will also be working on memorisation strategies.

Music: In music this half term the children will be exploring key and time signatures. Our topic is 'How does music improve our world?' We will be composing our own music and building our confidence through performing.

P.E.—Hockey: In PE this half term the children will be working with a specialist sports coach in order to learn the skills needed to play a game of hockey. They will learn the rules of the game and will be building on their team work skills throughout lessons.

Top tips for Year 6 parents - How you can help your child!



- Encourage your child to read every day - 20 minutes would be ideal in order to gain signatures towards their Eager Reader step ladder.
- You can support your child by exploring their understanding of what they have read e.g. Describe what has happened so far. How does a character feel, what do you think they will do next and why? Would you recommend this book to a friend?
- Practising times tables at any available time – in the queue at the supermarket, in a traffic jam etc. Also practise division facts from the times tables e.g. $2 \times 5 = 10$ so $10 \div 2 = 5$, then move onto decimal facts e.g. $0.2 \times 7 = 1.4$.
- Practise using maths in real-life situations e.g. reading timetables, money (how much change will you get?), telling the time with analogue & digital clocks, converting from 12 hour to 24 hour time and working out the duration of events.
- Make sure your child goes to sleep at a reasonable time. Year 6 is a challenging year; your child will have a much better chance of grasping difficult concepts if they arrive at school well-rested.
- The school have subscribed to Spelling Shed, Times Table Rockstarz and Read Theory so your children have their login details for these websites.
- Encourage your child to become more independent – they will need to be next year. Help them to develop strategies for making sure they have everything they need at school rather than packing their bag for them!
- Take an interest in their homework; make sure they hand it in on time. If your child has not understood what they need to do and you are unsure how best to explain, get them to ask the teacher as soon as possible.
- To develop speaking and listening skills, encourage your child to explain things to you as clearly as possible. This could also apply to skills of persuasion or instructions. For example, only let your child watch that special TV program if they can successfully persuade you using good persuasive language and reasoning.
- Ask general knowledge questions such as countries and their capitals, or basic scientific facts/vocabulary. Does your child know the location of major countries? What language do they speak there?
- As they become more independent, many Year 6 children begin to walk to school on their own. This is a good time to revise road safety strategies.

Attendance and Punctuality



Please ensure your child is **on-time** for school every day. Our school timings are back to normal. Children should be on the yard for 8.45, ready for the doors to open at 8.50am. Good **attendance** is important - has a direct effect on learning. Children should not take time-off unless absolutely necessary. We award certificates and prizes for good attendance. We are aiming for 98%-100% - please play your part in helping us to meet this ambitious target.