

Curriculum Letter for Year 6 – Autumn Term 1 2023

General Information

Welcome to Year 6. The children have settled in well and are becoming familiar with the routines, expectations and timetable. As the new leaders in the school, the Year 6 pupils set an example by wearing smart and correct uniform at all times. House Points are awarded to Year 6 pupils for effort, achievements and the contributions they make to our school community. House Captains and Vice Captains have now been chosen; well done to all those who stepped up for these areas of responsibility.

This term, we will be meeting our new class buddies in Year 2 and working with them throughout the year. We look forward to many of our Year 6 leading parent tours, supporting younger children with their reading and demonstrating maturity and leadership outside of the classroom. Finally, we look forward to Parliament Week in November with Year 5 and our school journey in October!

Curriculum

In Year 6, there are three groups for both Maths and English, for most lessons. This includes the two Year 6 teachers plus Mrs Bolton and Mrs Statham. These groups are fluid and are changed frequently. This system works very effectively and helps to get the children used to a range of teachers and teaching styles, ready for transition to secondary school.

Maths: This half term we will build on the pupils' knowledge of place value and the four operations and focus on becoming fluent in number. The language and vocabulary associated with these areas, will also be taught and modelled. Children will continue building reasoning skills to support their answers.

English: Our first unit this term is based on the book '*The Promise*' by Nicola Davis. Through the sequence of learning, children will explore the language of the text in order to create a sequel using a synonym of the word 'promise'. They will be encouraged to draw upon the figurative language in the book to embed within their own narratives about nature. Following this we will be studying '*The Last Bear*' by Hannah Gold in which children use the text to explore a range of genres and styles of writing. One of the key elements of this text is the way it weaves a gripping tale with important messages relating to the environment and climate change. Children will write a newspaper report about a key event in the story, taking the opportunity to highlight important environmental messages to the reader.

Science: Our first unit is all about '*Classifying Living Things*'. The children will learn about the 5 kingdoms of living things. They will study classification and create keys to sort animals as well as trees in our local environment. They will also develop their knowledge by looking at fungi and bacteria.

Geography: For this exciting unit '*South America: The Amazon*', the children will find out about the Amazon region of South America, considering what it is like to live in the region, as well as how it is being damaged and how it can be protected.

Art: Our unit this half term is called *Drawing: Make my voice heard*. We will consider how symbolism in art can convey meaning. We will generate a range of symbols, patterns and colours that represent us, taking inspiration from an artist's style. Children will apply the techniques, skills and inspiration from artists from across the unit, to create a powerful drawn image to convey a message on a subject that they feel passionate about.

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DT: This term our unit is *Structures* and involves the pupils designing and making a playground. We have already looked at photos of playgrounds and visited Aldersbrook Park, in order to create design criteria for the task. The pupils will be using a variety of materials including wood, pipe cleaners and lolly sticks to create model apparatus. They have been challenged to include a variety of types of structure in their finished product.

Music: We will continue with the use of the program 'Charanga.' In the first half term, the musical knowledge, vocabulary and skills in the unit is focused around one song: 'Happy', a pop song by Pharrell Williams. We will learn the song and play instruments to record a final version of this song.

Computing: Our unit is '*We are computational thinkers*'. The pupils we be mastering algorithms for searching, sorting and Maths. They will use the program Scratch for writing and debugging their algorithms.

RE: Our unit focuses on the survival of the Christian message. We will consider how Christians use the Bible and why it has been translated into different languages. We will also look at why Christians are motivated to share the Christian message both locally and worldwide.

PSHE: Our first unit is *Family and Relationships* where we will discuss the importance of respect and challenging stereotypes. We will also look at different situations where conflict may arise and discuss strategies to manage this. Circle time sessions will also take place this term.

French: Our first unit is '*A l'Ecole*' (*At School*). In this unit children will learn to discuss the subjects they like/dislike at school and why they like/dislike them.

Class Read: *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold

PE Days

Outdoor PE is timetabled for Thursdays with Coach Romaine. All children must wear their PE kits to school. We also have indoor PE on Fridays. Indoor PE kits stay in school.

Reading and Spellings

Our expectation is that **daily** reading happens at home. The reading record book is for the children to record their daily reading. This should be signed at least once a week by an adult. Children must also have a reading book in class every day, as this is part of the daily guided and independent reading session. Spelling lists for Y5 and 6 will be sent home and children will be required to learn these throughout the year. Spellings will be used in their writing and tested, when necessary.

Homework

Homework will be set every Friday on *Microsoft Teams* and is due in the following Wednesday. Children may also be set homework on MyMaths or Purple Mash – this will be indicated on the work set on *Teams*.

Key Dates and events

Year 6 Residential Trip to Gilwell	Monday 2 nd - Friday 6 th October
TFL Safety and Citizenship Presentation	Monday 9 th October
Half term	Monday 23 rd - Friday 27 th October
INSET Day (school closed)	Monday 30 th October
Y5&Y6 Parliament week	6 th – 12 th November

With God's love, we live, learn and grow together