



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Year 6: Half Termly Letter to Parents

Autumn 1, September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year here at St. Mary's Church of England Primary School and welcome to Year 6! We trust that your family has had an enjoyable summer holiday and we hope your child is refreshed and eager to start back. Year 6 is a challenging year and we work really hard to ensure that all the children have the best opportunity possible to achieve their full potential. At the same time we try our best to have fun along the way and provide all the children with some lovely lasting memories. As your child embarks on their final year at primary school we would like to take this opportunity to wish them a successful and positive year ahead.



As usual, these parent letters (written every half term and published on our school website) provide you with a brief outline of the curriculum that has been planned. Other useful information related to your child's class and their learning is also provided. Please print a copy of this letter and keep it safe so that you can refer back to it.

The Year 6 Team

Our Year 6 team this year is:

Mr M Lett (teacher) who will teach on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Mrs A Bishop (teacher) who will teach the whole class on Tuesdays but will also be supporting groups on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Ms S O'Connell (teaching assistant) who will support the class every morning.

Mr Nathan Prior (teaching assistant) who is gaining work experience for the autumn term.

The Curriculum

Below is an outline of the Year 6 curriculum for this half term:

English Our **Power of Reading** text this half term will be the children's novel *Skellig* written by David Almond. This text will allow the class the chance to explore, talk and write about the emotions of the story and its characters as the mystery unfolds. Punctuation and Grammar will focus on the different word classes and learning where, when and how to use them correctly. Sentence level work will focus on the formation of complex sentences and the use of more sophisticated punctuation. Handwriting will also be a key focus this half term and the school will be introducing a new handwriting programme to support the children with this. All of our Year 6 children will be expected to write in black ink pen for all written work.

Maths The children will be covering the following areas: number and place value; mental multiplication and division; decimals, percentages and their equivalence to fractions; ratio and proportion; mental addition and subtraction; written addition and subtraction; problem solving, reasoning and algebra; written multiplication and division; measurement.

Topic (Science & History)	Our topic this half term is called Full Power! - This topic is all about electricity and the class will learn about electricity and how to make different kinds of electrical circuits. The children will investigate ways in which to vary the power of different components within a circuit and how to draw simple circuits using conventional symbols for communication. We will also investigate the basic principles of renewable and sustainable energy. History this term will link directly with our Topic in that the children will be learning about the discovery of electricity and why it is one of the most important discoveries ever made. We will look closely at the electricity inventions timeline and the scientists involved in shaping the modern world.
R.E.	Peace - Children will consider what it means to be peaceful and understand how peaceful people can be a calming influence. They will consider the role of the sharing of the Peace in a Christian service. They will look at the lives of Ghandi and Martin Luther King in achieving peace through non-violent means. Children will look to the example of Jesus and how His words and actions offer peace. They will know that the Bible teaches Christians how to overcome evil with good.
Computing	Computing Skills - <i>Websites: Working with text, tables and graphs.</i> We shall also be learning how to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognising acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and identifying ways to report concerns about content and contact.
P.S.H.E.	Being Me in My World - This unit helps to make children feel welcome and valued and to understand their own wants and needs which can then be compared to children in different communities. The children learn to appreciate how their actions can affect others and that we all function best when achieving as a whole group.
French	This year we are lucky to have some specialist teaching of French every Monday.
Art & Design	Mrs Astbury will provide specialist teaching of Art lessons. This half term the class will be looking at ' scientific developments ' in the visual arts to coincide with the class topic of 'Full Power'. They will explore how the Renaissance artists of Italy developed a new form of depicting the world through perspectival drawing and the use of the camera obscura. The children will be encouraged to do their own research and bring in examples of scenes which show perspective and require 3 dimensional technical drawing solutions. We will examine closely the work of Italian Modernist artist Giorgio De Chirico and look at modern architectural drawings.
Music	Mrs Le Provost will provide specialist teaching of Music lessons. This half term the class will be creating their own jazz melodies in groups and focusing on how syncopation is key for a successful jazzy show-stopper. We will start by learning a song based on a traditional swing piece of music that uses syncopated melody to help develop accuracy in singing, both rhythmically and in tuning. This will lead to learning about how syncopation is notated and how other musical elements play an important part in effective composition work. Their compositions will be recorded so that we can evaluate them and learn how to improve our composition work for next time.

P.E. Year 6 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday with Mr Ellis and on a Friday with Mr Lett. This half term's activities will be basketball and football. Pupils will focus on passing over shorter and longer distances, receiving and defending. In addition the class will practice dribbling and passing, to maintain possession and beat defenders, in different overloaded situations. Skills will be applied and knowledge of rules developed through competitive games.

PE LESSONS FOR YEAR 6 WILL USUALLY TAKE PLACE TWICE A WEEK - EVERY MONDAY AFTERNOON AND EVERY FRIDAY MORNING. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S PE KIT AND TRAINERS FOR OUTDOORS ARE IN SCHOOL ON THESE DAYS AND LABELLED CLEARLY.

Homework

In Year 6 all children will usually be given three sets of main homework to complete each week. We advise our children to spend no more than 40 minutes on each piece of main homework and to let us know whether they found it too complicated or too easy at the end of the assignment. We expect all of our Year 6 children to complete their homework independently but it would be beneficial for them to have it checked over for accurate punctuation, accurate calculations and neatness before it is handed in. Please comment if you have had to help significantly. Homework is structured as followed:

Monday: English - due in on the following Wednesday

Wednesday: Maths - due in on the following Friday

Friday: Topic - due in on the following Tuesday

In addition to the main homework Year 6 pupils will also be expected to conduct these:

- 1) Spellings - need to be learnt weekly, set every Monday for a test on Friday.
- 2) Times Tables - need to be rehearsed regularly for a test on Friday.
- 3) Mental Arithmetic - need to practise regularly for a test on Friday.
- 4) Guided Reading - tasks will be set on a designated day for completion **at home** and handed in for the following week's session with the teacher.

Diary Dates

Thursday 15th September 2016 at 6pm - Meet and Greet / Year 6 Secondary Transfer

Thursday 22nd September 2016 - Wandsworth Test

Friday 7th October 2016 - Harvest Service at St. Mary's Church

Wednesday 2nd November 2016 at 2.45pm - Presentation of work for Full Power topic

Communication

If you have any queries about the daily routine or what your child is learning, or perhaps to inform us of other matters relating to your child, then do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of the Year 6 team. As always the best way to do this is through the use of your child's PACT book. These are checked daily and we will always endeavour to reply to you as soon as possible. Don't forget that the PACT book is a great tool for communication between home and school.

The Year 6 team are delighted to be teaching the class and look forward to a very busy and productive autumn term ahead.

Best wishes,

Mr Lett, Mrs Bishop and Ms O'Connell