



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Year 6: Half Termly Letter to Parents

Autumn 1, September 2018

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

Ms S O'Connell - teaching assistant

Meet and Greet Session

An opportunity for you to visit the Year 6 classroom and meet Mr Lett and Ms O'Connell will take place on Wednesday 19th September at 6pm. A presentation about the expectations in Year 6 will be provided.

Year 6 Wandsworth Admissions Test

These tests are designed to provide Wandsworth secondary schools with the information they need before offering places. These tests will take place in school on the morning of Thursday 20th September 2018.

School Journey Residential Trip

Year 6 will attend their school journey trip to Sayers Croft from Tuesday 20th November to Friday 23rd November 2018.

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 <i>Skellig</i> 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 use its Letter-join
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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.	The Journey of Life and Death - the class will be investigating beliefs about life and life after death and will be encouraged to reflect on and express their hopes for the future. In this unit children will have the opportunity to share their feelings of loss caused by separation, learn about how faith can provide believers with answers to life's most challenging and ultimate questions, and also how faith challenges our attitudes, values and commitments in life. They will consider how important it is to celebrate the lives of those they have lost and how remembering can help the healing process. They will examine their attitudes, values and commitments in the light of this learning.
Computing	Computing Skills - skills will be enhanced with the class following a touch typing programme that will help them to word process at a quicker pace. They will also be learning to code with BBC micro:bit - a pocket-sized codeable computer. The children will consider issues relating to e-Safety, in particular they will be thinking about the SMART rules.
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	Specialist teaching of French will usually take place every Wednesday afternoon. We warmly welcome Madame Goalen to the school who will be conducting these sessions. Bonjour et bienvenue!
Art & Design	Mrs Forsyth will provide specialist teaching of Art lessons. Across the school the children will be developing their drawing skills this half term. Everyone will have the opportunity to create the templates for Christmas cards and mugs in time for half-term. Year 6 will use their sketch-books from the start of the Autumn Term and we will include portraits from art history throughout the year. Year 6 will draw different faces based on the Renaissance.

Music Mrs Le Prevost 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 Miss McCrone (our new specialist PE teacher) and on a Thursday with Mr Naughton (our sports coach). This term the class shall be covering all aspects of Netball play; Sending and receiving a ball in a variety of ways, fully understanding their role and position on court, footwork/distance rules and introducing tactics to prep them for competitive play. Also allowing all children to learn specific shooting techniques suited to their style and game play. The children shall also be having bi-weekly yoga lessons with Miss McCrone on a Tuesday to further explore movement, focus and strengthen core muscles.

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

Home Learning

In Year 6 all children will usually be given three sets of main home learning to complete each week. We advise our children to spend no more than 40 minutes on each piece of main home learning 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 home learning 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.

Home learning is structured as followed:

Friday: English, Maths and Topic - all due in on the following Wednesday. The children will need support in organising and managing how they will complete their 3 pieces of home learning over the course of the week.

In addition to the main home learning 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 Monday.
- 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

Friday 14th September 2018 - Celebration and Good Work Assembly

Wednesday 19th September 2018 at 6pm - Meet and Greet

Thursday 20th September 2018 - Wandsworth Year 6 Test

Friday 21st September 2018 after school - Year 6 Cake Sale

Friday 19th October 2018 - Last day of Autumn Term 1

Monday 29th October 2018 - INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 30th October 2018 - Start of Autumn Term 2

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 - which as you now know has moved to an electronic e-mail system! The PACT e-mail is a great tool for communication between home and school, so please do not hesitate in using it. The address is:

class6@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk

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 and Ms O'Connell