

Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 1

General Information

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you had an enjoyable summer and well-earned rest. We would like to take the opportunity to welcome you and tell you a little bit about Year 6.

Both classes will have PE on Tuesday and Games on Friday, but children should ensure that their PE kit (including trainers) is in school every day. We are aware the children may need their trainers for activities outside of school, but we have suggested to them that they have an inexpensive pair that can be left at school.

Stud earrings are allowed as part of the uniform, but should not be worn during PE/Games. They must be removed at home, and only in exceptional circumstance will we allow a child to tape their own ears. If hair accessories are worn they should be small (no large bows) in either green, black, white or yellow. Children who walk to/from school on their own are allowed to have a mobile phone, but it should be handed into the office at the start of the day. Mobile phones should not be brought into school by your child if they are not walking to/from school on their own.

In Year 6 we stress the importance of daily reading, both in class and at home. The reading system has been explained to your child and they know that they should have their book and reading record in school each day. We would ask that parents/carers endeavour to hear their child read at least twice a week. This will help them to grow in confidence as a reader, no matter which level they are, and gives the opportunity to expand vocabulary and comprehension.

Homework will be given on Friday and it must be completed by the following Thursday. Maths homework will generally be set online (My Maths). Homework will sometimes include work that must be completed on a sheet and your child will be given a cardboard wallet in which to keep the homework sheets. Homework will also include weekly spellings that your child should practise.

All children should have a pencil case that contains the following: pencil, eraser, blue ballpoint pen (not a fountain/ink pen), glue stick (not coloured), sharpener, coloured pencils, felt tips, highlighters (green, blue and yellow) and a whiteboard pen (black or blue). We would really appreciate it if you could also send in a box of tissues for the classroom.

Curriculum Information

RE -

The topic for this half-term is 'In the Beginning'. We will study the creation passages from scripture and explain belief in the nature of God drawn from these passages. We will find connections between a creation passage and a quote from Laudato Si (Papal encyclical about God's Creation). We will explain why people pray the Psalms and how they are a form of prayer ritual used by both Jews and Christians today.

English

Historical stories: War Horse by Michael Morpurgo.

We will compare the book and film version and the children will write dialogue, letters, play scripts and descriptions of characters and settings. Our grammar lessons will focus on using commas correctly to clarify meaning and to indicate parenthesis. We will also learn how to recognise and use relative clauses and relative pronouns. During our guided reading sessions we will extend the children's vocabulary by discussing the meaning of unknown words and learn the skills needed to answer different types of comprehension questions.

A list of spellings will be sent home weekly and your child should practise them in preparation for the following week's dictation.

Numeracy

Number and place value – read, write, order, compare and round numbers up to 10 million in a variety of contexts. Determine the value of each digit in numbers up to 10 million. Use negative numbers in context and calculate intervals across zero.

Addition/Subtraction – solve problems using written methods of addition and subtraction. Using these skills, the children will answer a range of questions, reason and solve multi-step word problems.

Multiplication/Division – use the formal written method of multiplication to multiply numbers up to 4 digits by one- and two-digit numbers. Use the formal written method of short division to divide numbers up to 4 digits by one and two-digit numbers and interpret remainders as whole numbers and fractions. Identify prime numbers, common multiples and common factors. Recognise and use square numbers and cube numbers and use the notation for squared and cubed numbers.

Use the order of operations (BODMAS) to carry out calculations involving the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division).

Learn how to perform mental calculations (where appropriate) with mixed operations and large numbers.

We encourage the children to explain and reason their work at all times; explaining the work, and the method they used, ensures a deeper level of understanding.

Topic Work

The Great War: We will be looking at the causes of World War 1, the countries involved in fighting, the geography of Europe at this time and the effects war had in England and abroad. In our Art lessons we shall be studying recruitment and propaganda posters.

Science

Our topic this half-term is Light. We will look at how light travels in straight lines, light sources, why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them and how the eye works.

PE/Games

PE - gymnastics (matching and mirroring).

Games – Gaelic Football.

Computing

The children will be looking at a range of apps in preparation for creating their own app later this academic year. We will also be using their ICT sessions, the laptops and iPads for cross curricular work. As always, our first lesson of every half-term will be on e-safety.

Trips and workshops

Friday, 18th October: Young Shakespeare workshop (in school)

Advance notice: Wednesday, 6th November – Millfield Theatre trip (letter to follow)

Imperial War Museum trip (date will be advised)

Retreat day at St. Monica's Church – Thursday, 7th November (6Y), Friday, 8th November (6G) – help needed to walk to the church and back. We hope you find this information useful. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Mrs T Hindle

Mrs S Warrington