



Year 6 Deer Class Newsletter

Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term and to Year 6 Deer class. I hope you and the children have enjoyed a restful summer holiday and that they are ready for all of the opportunities and exciting challenges that this year will bring. This is an exciting year ahead and I am really looking forward to working with your children as they embark on their final year at primary school. In terms of staff arrangements, I will be teaching in Year 6 for the whole week, with the exception of Wednesday mornings, when Mrs Fulton will be teaching Science and PE this term. Mrs Douglas will be our full time teaching assistant in Year 6.

As you know, Year 6 is an important year for the children in terms of securing their places at secondary school and taking their KS2 SATs assessments in May, but it will also be a year full of fantastic experiences and the chance to really grow as our oldest members of the school. They will work hard on all areas of the curriculum, but alongside this, we will be developing their independence, social and personal skills, and celebrating all that they do.

Curriculum Overview

With the aim of working in partnership with you to support your child's learning, the following provides a brief outline of the teaching and learning that will take place across the curriculum in Year 6 this term.

In **literacy**, we will start the term with some descriptive work, developing language for describing settings and writing the openings to stories, with a focus on building suspense. We will make links between literacy and our World War Two history topic by studying the text 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. Within this unit of work, the children will be immersed in the story, reading extracts from the beginning of the book, and they will go on to write in role; plan, draft and write narratives about wartime evacuation; describe characters and settings; and write speeches announcing the outbreak of war. There will be a focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar within all writing in literacy lessons, as well as additional spelling and grammar sessions throughout the week. All children will be encouraged to read books of their choice at school and at home, and there will be regular guided reading sessions to develop a range of reading skills.

Our **maths** this term will include topics such as place value with numbers to 10,000,000; comparing, ordering and rounding numbers; values of decimal digits; multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000; conversion between units of measure; and co-ordinates in all four quadrants. There will be a strong focus on building quick, secure mental arithmetic skills, as well as developing reasoning and problem solving across different areas of maths.

Our whole school approach to **science** is to study many areas of the science curriculum in short bursts, so that topics can be revisited throughout the year, enabling children to continually build on previous learning. This term, we will explore topics such as adaptation and evolution; reproduction of plants and animal groups; life cycles of different animal groups; and the seven life processes for all living things.

Our **history** topic for terms one and two is 'World War Two', which I know many of the children are excited about already! We will approach the topic chronologically, learning about why the war broke out in 1939 and who was involved; the roles of Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill; the Dunkirk evacuations; the Battle of Britain; and the Blitz. I have recently visited the Normandy and already the children have been excited to find out more about the landing beaches and D-Day; questioning me on what remains and why

people still visit. The children will later learn about life on the home front, such as the role of women, the experiences for children and the life of ordinary people during the war. There will be many opportunities for cross-curricular writing, as well as making links with art and DT.

In **music** this term, the topic will explore 90s music, in which the children will hear and research influences, styles and musicians of the decade.

In **RE** we will be completing a unit answering the question: 'What matters most to Christians and Humanists?' The topic explores themes such as codes for living, right and wrong and Christian and non-religious values and morals. The nature of the RE curriculum allows the children many opportunities to ask questions, engage in discussions and reflect on their own beliefs in relation to religion.

Our **PSHE** unit is entitled 'How can we keep healthy as we grow?' and explores ideas about living a healthy lifestyle, physical and mental well-being, and risks associated with unhealthy habits.

In **computing** this term, the children will complete a short unit of work on basic coding skills, enabling them to make their own online games. We will then continue developing our coding skills through a range of activities on Purple Mash using 2Code. As part of our computing curriculum, we will also have lessons on aspects of online safety.

In **art**, we will make links with our work in history, in which the children will use the theme of the Blitz to produce skyline artwork. The artwork they produce will depict a London skyline during the Blitz bombing.

Our **PE** this term will include lessons on fitness, such as circuit training and cross country, and netball skills. The lessons will be taught on a **Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon**, and your child can wear their PE kit into school on these days. If your child wears earrings, please ensure they are either removed or covered on PE days and that any long hair is tied back.

In **French** this term, we will be working on aspects of conversational French, such as greetings, personal information, colours, weather and so on. The children will complete lots of French speaking activities as well as basic written tasks.

Home learning

This year, we would like the focus of homework to be primarily on reading, spellings and times tables. Home learning will commence for Year 6 with spellings this week. We have talked about the importance of reading in class and times table practice will begin shortly, helping support the children in many of their Maths units throughout the year.

Reading: Reading, and particularly building stamina for reading, is extremely important in Year 6, and I would urge the children to read for at least 15-20 minutes every day, or as often as they possibly can. If you can support and encourage this by sometimes listening to your child read, and recording any comments in their contact books, I would be very grateful. If the children read on their own, they can record this in their books themselves, and they are welcome to borrow books from our class and school library. I will be awarding a 'Reader of the Week' certificate every Friday, based on how much reading the children do at home and how they engage with reading at school.

Spellings: Your child will bring home a list of 10 spellings every Thursday to learn, which will be tested the following Tuesday. They can practise these spellings in whichever way works best for them, and the words should generally be familiar, as they will link to the work we have been doing in spelling sessions at school. If the children want to do any additional spelling practise, they might choose words from the Year 5&6 word list from the National Curriculum, which can be found here:

https://cdn.oxfordowl.co.uk/2019/08/29/13/56/09/5a42eb6a-f57f-4dc4-a66e-bd4c5e27e4b7/SpellingWordList_Y5-6.pdf

Times Tables: The children should be regularly practising times tables at home to support their learning in all different areas of maths. They should also work on any other mental arithmetic skills that we have covered at school, including all four operations. Assignments will be set on Maths Shed every Thursday to support children with rapid recall and mental arithmetic. Some useful websites include:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

We will not be sending homework books home this year, however if your child would like an exercise book in which to complete spelling or times table practice at home, these will be available for children who ask.

If your child wishes to do additional work at home, any research around our history topic on World War Two would support their learning at school. Additional work of this kind will always be praised and celebrated in class. Thank you in advance for your support with all aspects of the home learning.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 11th September: Year 6 Well-being Walk at Blean Woods (*See separate letter*)

Thursday 12th September: Kent Test Day

Monday 16th September: Meet the Teacher - come and see the children's classroom and find out what the year has in store.

Monday 23rd September: Individual photographs

Friday 27th September: Fruit Run

Monday 30th- Friday 4th October: Hindleap Residential

Tuesday 15th/ Wednesday 16th/ Thursday 17th October: Parents' Consultations

Thursday 24th October: End of Term 1 (Inset Day on Friday)

Tuesday 5th November: Start of Term 2 (Inset Day on Monday)

I am aware that the residential probably seems very fast approaching! We are currently in the process of finalising all the details with the team at Hindleap and you will have just received a separate letter, including timings, a kit list and all you need to know about the week away. **Please ensure any important medical information is completed in detail on the relevant forms and returned by Monday including all allergy issues, food or otherwise.** I realise, for some, this may be the first time away from parents and so butterflies may be starting and thoughts of what if... This is an action-packed week away with times for sharing stories and getting to know a different side to one another. But the adults are all approachable and can't wait to share this special time with the children. It is just as memorable for them as it is for the children!

Finally, could you please ensure that the children are wearing standard uniform as stated on the school's website, on non-PE days. This includes no trainers and no tracksuits or jogging trousers. Socks should be white or dark coloured and should children need to wear boots due to weather conditions, please provide an additional pair of shoes to change into.

I hope that this will be a happy, exciting and rewarding year for your child. Year 6 is an extremely busy year, full of hard work and great fun, and I am looking forward to working with the children, alongside you, to help them reach their full potential.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me on the playground or contact me via the school office.

Kind regards,

Mrs Berry