

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back from our summer holidays to you and your child. This letter contains some key information about Year 6's autumn term: please keep it in a safe place for reference!

As your child's Year 6 teacher, I will be teaching Literacy and Maths from Mondays – Thursdays, with Mrs South teaching the class on Friday mornings. Naturally, I will be teaching some of the afternoon topics as well.

Literacy: The majority of our lessons will focus on sentence level improvements, with children planning, drafting, writing and editing to evaluate the effectiveness of their writing. We will in addition have grammar, spelling, vocabulary development, guided reading and comprehension sessions. The purpose of our Literacy curriculum is to provide a solid foundation for the extended writing tasks that will follow, and of course, lay the foundation for secondary-school preparedness.

Maths: This term will primarily focus on the strategies and methodology behind the four operations - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Mental maths and revision will be practised daily.

Homework expectations per week as per school approved policy:	
Literacy	40 mins
Numeracy	40 mins
Spellings (recommended to be divided into 3 different learning-style sessions per week)	40 mins
Times Tables to 12, Multiples, Factors, Inverses (division facts)	By result: children must calculate at speed and with confidence. NB. The maxim 'don't use it...lose it' applies.
Reading	Minimum 3 times a week; parent/carer to sign reading book.
Science	40 mins

Homework Timetable and Weekly Tests:		
Reading Eggs, Mathletics and Spellodrome will all be fixed to your child's level and are excellent revision sites for them to go on regularly.		
Monday	Spellings	Test is following Monday
Monday	Science	Every other week
Wednesday	Maths, Literacy	Completed work returned the following Monday. (NB. Please encourage your child to check their understanding of the task on Wednesday night, so that I can address any concerns on Thursday)
Friday	Mental Maths Test	No specific homework, but ensure that times tables are rehearsed regularly and mental and/or pen and paper calculations are practised

Afternoon topics Year 6:	
Science	Light (<i>1st half term</i>); Living things and their habitats (<i>2nd half term</i>)
I.C.T	General IT skills and Coding
History	Stone Age to Iron Age (<i>1st half term</i>)
Geography	Mountains, Earthquakes, Volcanoes (<i>2nd half term</i>)
P.E	Swimming, Rugby and Football
Music	Recorders/Ocarinas (<i>1st half term</i>); Musical elements and Making Instruments (<i>2nd half term</i>)
Art	Flower painting inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keeffe, Van Gogh and Monet
P.H.S.E	New Beginnings (<i>1st half term</i>); Getting on and falling out (<i>2nd half term</i>)
R.E	Rites of Passages

Ways to support your child at home:

- Rather than ask what your child learned in school that day (and having them say little), ask what surprised them, interested them, what they found out that they didn't know before, how they can link this knowledge to what they already know or have experienced etc in order to stimulate discussion and reflection.
- Understand that some homework assignments may involve your child teaching you a concept they have learned in class. Learn together how to get the result required. In terms of maths, by all means teach your child an alternative method for approaching a problem, but bear in mind that they do need to know specific methods and their homework may require these methods to be put into practice.
- Emphasise the importance of homework and hard work as a route to success rather than relying on any innate talent or simply giving up or not giving their best. Ideally, help your child to establish a regular time and place (away from the TV and technology) to complete their homework.
- Please don't think that they don't need your input any more with their reading. Reading is key to the development of your child's learning process as it underpins the whole curriculum. It is also critical for Year 6 pupils. Do make sure that they are reading suitable texts regularly, interspersing fiction with non-fiction and different genres, including newspapers. Children are expected to read with an adult a minimum three times a week and to make notes on their progress in their Reading Record (which is checked on a Monday). At this age, it is still good for them to read aloud to you, and occasionally hear you read to them so that they can model your intonation. Do question them on their thoughts about the setting, characters, plot, author's choices, inference etc as they will be tested on this in their KS2 SATs.
- Vocabulary development happens quickest during the moment: unknown word meanings should be systematically sought out when they come across them (eg reading a newspaper), with those words that could be used in class writing being written into the back of their spelling book to aid retention.

Your child's responsibilities:

Year 6 children are expected to take increasing responsibility for their own work and organisation. This includes accurately writing down homework in their homework planner; handing in homework in time; having the appropriate resources such as classroom stationery, PE kit (Tuesdays) and swimming kit (Fridays). Please help your child to develop good habits now by helping them set up a good system for this, which works for them.

Achievements: Parents can record extra-curricular achievements outside the classroom in their child's homework book. This might include passing a music exam, attaining a well-earned badge in Scouts or Guides or playing particularly well in sport at the weekend. It will enable me to gain a holistic picture of your son/daughter's progress and particular talents. It will also enable us as a school to recognise and celebrate achievement outside of the classroom.

Finally, please contact me if there are any queries regarding the information above. Tuesday and Thursday evenings after school are the best times for me; otherwise we can arrange a meeting convenient to us both, at a later date. I very much hope to see you all at *'Meet the Teacher Evening'* on the Tuesday 27th September at 7pm, where I will explain more about the Year 6 curriculum and answer any initial questions.

Thank you in advance for all your support this year. I am looking forward to a very productive and exciting year in Year 6, and being a part of your child's academic progress.

Mrs Alfert
Year 6 Class Teacher
Curzon CE Combined School