

## Year 6 Parents' Letter September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 6! 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 all week. I will be teaching some of the afternoon topics as well - including ICT, Art, PHSE and History.

### **Literacy:**

We will be focusing on a variety of texts this term and will be looking at fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Our aim is for the children to be able to identify and write in a number of genres. All children will be expected to be able to identify parts of a sentence e.g. adverbial clauses etc and will be encouraged to use this knowledge to improve their writing skills and work on using a better range of vocabulary.

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. We will have a particular grammatical feature/punctuation every week and the children will have homework to follow up on this.

### **Maths:**

This term we will be looking at place value and using all four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This will include mental methods and written methods. Also, we will be working on fractions, decimals and percentages and finding equivalents. We will practise handling data and dealing with real-life mathematical problems. We will be doing weekly tables tests so ensure all tables are practised regularly.

Two excellent websites for maths that can be accessed from home are 'Woodland Junior Maths zone' <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/> and 'math trainer' [www.mathsisfun.com](http://www.mathsisfun.com)

### **Homework:**

Literacy homework will be a mix of SPAG questions and Literacy tasks, some will require children to work independently and creatively. Maths homework will be a mixture of practise questions, problem solving and practical activities.

In KS2 we will be using a new Homework diary that has a reading log in it – it should be much easier to record everything in one place.

Homework expectations per week as per school approved policy	
Literacy	40 mins
Numeracy	40 mins
Spellings	40 mins

Times Tables to 12, Multiples, Factors, Inverses (division facts)	As much as possible! The faster and easier they can recall these facts the better!
Reading	Minimum 3 times a week; parent/carer to sign homework diary/reading list
Science	30 mins

#### Homework Timetable and Weekly Tests:

Reading Eggs, Mathletics and Spellodome will all be fixed to your child's level and are excellent revision sites for them to go on regularly I also recommend IXL grammar and maths – they have fabulous practice questions		
Monday	Spellings	Test following Monday
Thursday	Science	Every other week
Tuesday	Maths and Literacy	Completed work returned the following Monday
Friday	Times tables	Regular tests

#### Afternoon topics

Science	Electricity (1st half term); Living things and their habitats (2nd half term)
Computing	E-safety, General ICT skills, HTML code
History	Roman Britain
Geography	Free Trade (Second half term)
P.E.	Swimming, Rugby and Football
Music	Composing based around "home is where..."
Art	Roman Mosaics (1 <sup>st</sup> half) Sketching, Flower paintings linked to Georgia O'Keefe (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)
PHSE	New beginnings (1 <sup>st</sup> half) ; Getting on and falling out (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)
R.E.	Picturing Jesus/WWJD (what would Jesus do)

#### 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 nonfiction and different genres, including newspapers. Children are expected to read with an adult a minimum of 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 somewhere 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 (Tuesday) and swimming kit (Wednesday). 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 Friday 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 and last year at Curzon.

Miss Ladley

Year 6 Class Teacher

Curzon CE Combined School