

Year 6 Parents' Letter September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 6! A warm welcome back from our summer holidays to you and your child. We also welcome Mahika to our class. 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, Music, Art, PHSCE and History.

Literacy:

We will start off the term with Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. We will then be looking at 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 phrases and subordinate clauses 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 and reading/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. 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.**

Homework:

Literacy homework will be a mix of grammar/spelling questions and Literacy tasks, some of which will require children to work independently and creatively. Maths homework will be a mixture of practice questions, problem solving and practical activities.

Reading will be checked on a Friday and a House point will be awarded for a parent signature and 3 x reading a week. Encourage your children to take responsibility for this as it will be a valuable skill at secondary school.

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

Homework Timetable and Weekly Tests:		
Reading Eggs and Mathletics 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	Occasionally
Tuesday	Maths and Literacy	Completed work returned the following Monday
Friday	Times tables Reading diary	Regular tests

The Rest of the Curriculum	
Science	Light (1st half term); Electricity (2nd half term)
Computing	E-safety, General ICT skills
History	Local History
Geography	Maps
P.E.	Swimming; Football/Rugby
Music	Modern Hip Hop
Art	Sketching, painting, sculpture
PHSE	New beginnings (1 st half) ; Getting on and falling out (2 nd half) Anti-bullying
R.E.	Science and Creation – contrasting or compatible?

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, our updated calculation policy is available on our website, so please refer to it if in doubt of any methods we are teaching in order to minimise confusing by teaching them another method. If your child is confused by the homework, please encourage them to come to me before the due date and I will help them.
- **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. 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 Friday). **At this age, it is still good for them to read aloud to you, and sometimes 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 (e.g. reading a newspaper), with those words that could be used in class writing being written somewhere to aid retention.
- **Think carefully about how much screen time your child is getting, late nights and gaming often negatively affects their focus in class** and issues that have happened online follow them into their lives at school. This can impact their mental health as well as learning. Whilst I am always happy to discuss these, it would be greatly appreciated if their use of mobile and technology was closely monitored at home by you. A set of clear rules agreed by both you and your child is a great start. We have updated our Acceptable Use policy in school to link better with our new values and with home and this will be signed by your child.
NSPCC has a great website with idea on how to set parental controls and chat to your children about E-safety:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
Any queries or questions about ways to do this please feel free to contact me.

Your child's responsibilities:

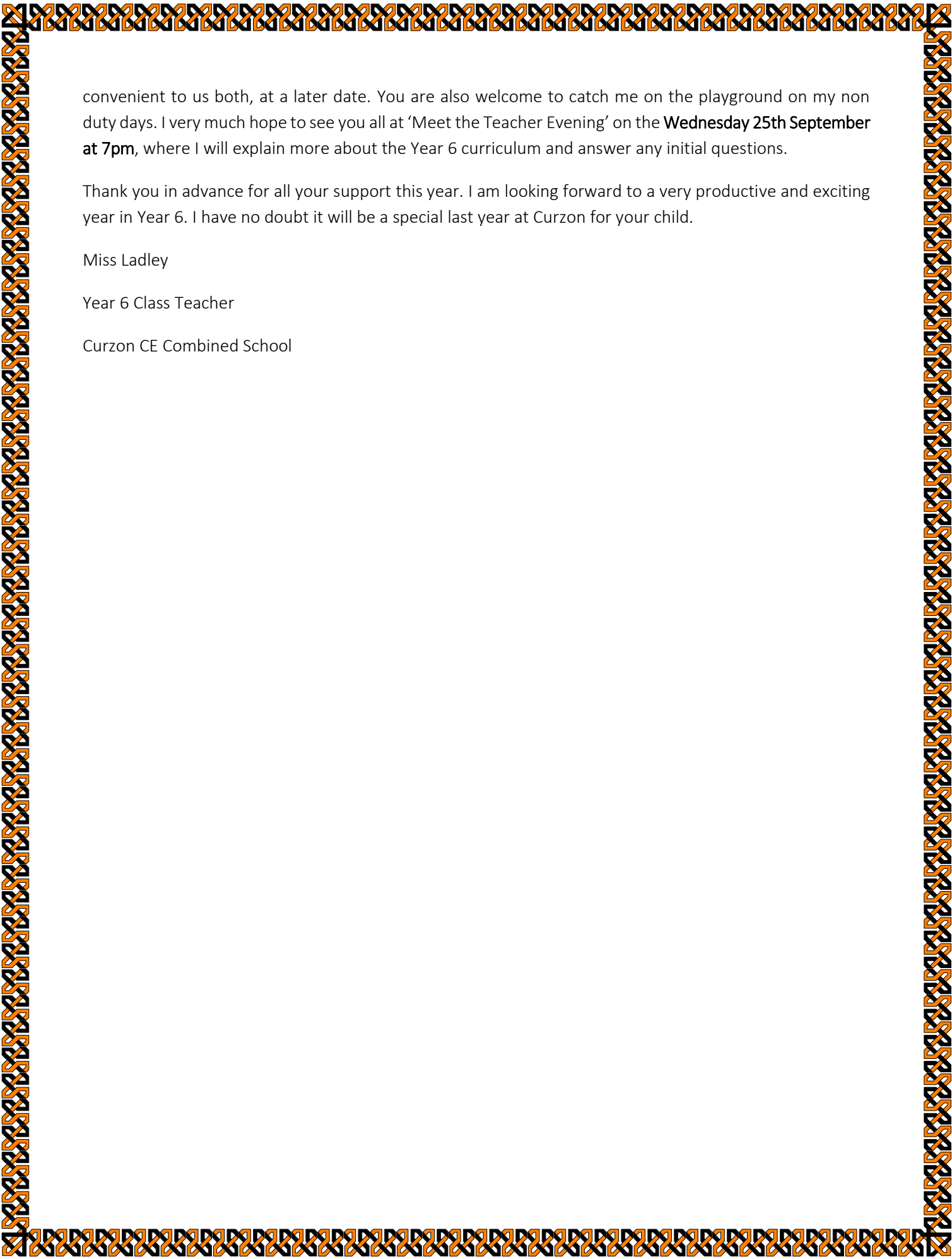
Year 6 children are expected to take increasing responsibility for their own work and organisation. This includes accurately writing down homework in their homework planner; handing in homework in time; having the appropriate resources such as classroom stationery, PE kit (Tuesday) and swimming kit (Wednesday).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

There will be a **3 strikes** and then a **Yellow Card** rule for **PE kit** and for **homework**, which will start fresh each term.

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 recognize and celebrate achievement outside of the classroom.

Finally, please contact me if there are any queries regarding the information above. Tuesday and Wednesday evenings after school are the best times for me; otherwise we can arrange a meeting



convenient to us both, at a later date. You are also welcome to catch me on the playground on my non duty days. I very much hope to see you all at 'Meet the Teacher Evening' on the **Wednesday 25th 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. I have no doubt it will be a special last year at Curzon for your child.

Miss Ladley

Year 6 Class Teacher

Curzon CE Combined School