

Welcome to Class 6: Autumn 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 6! A warm welcome back from our summer holidays to you and your child. We would also like to give a warm welcome to Ana and Ade to our class and to Curzon. I am delighted that we can return to school and I can reassure you that we will make the school return as “normal” as possible whilst keeping safety a priority. Please do ask if you have any questions or concerns regarding this.

Although academic achievement and progress are still a priority as ever, we know that children may be experiencing new worries and concerns about returning to school after lockdown. We have planned a range of activities to help the children understand the “new normal” and ease any worries that they may have.

Bubbles

As I am sure that you are aware, we are operating a bubble system to ensure minimal contact with other pupils. Year 5 and 6 are part of the same bubble so Miss Ladley, Mr Smith and I will be teaching all of the Year 6 lessons. Mrs Hale and Mrs Mann will be supporting us.

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 have grammar, spelling, vocabulary development and 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 education. We will have a particular grammatical feature/punctuation focus each 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. We will also be working on fractions and geometry, position and direction. **We will be doing weekly tables tests so ensure all tables are practised regularly.**

Homework:

New homework will **be given out on a Tuesday and is due in the following Monday.**

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 online activities,

arithmetic or problem solving activities. Some homework will be set online and some will be set to do in their homework books. This will be explained and modelled to the children each Wednesday when the homework will be given out. If children have a problem understanding the homework, then they are expected to ask for help before the due date.

Reading will be checked in the Homework Diary each day and the expectation is to read at least 3 times a week. Children will be rewarded “Dojo House points” for reading but if there is not signed evidence of reading the agreed 3 times a week then children will “catch up” with their reading during Friday break time as we believe that reading regularly is the key to academic progress and achievement.

Homework expectations per week as per school approved policy	
Literacy	40 mins
Numeracy	40 mins
Spellings	40 mins – Learning the spellings and writing within a sentence
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 via the Pupil Portal (like we used during Home Learning) I also recommend IXL grammar and Maths.		
Subject	Set	Due in
Literacy	Tuesday	Following Monday
Maths	Tuesday	Following Monday
Reading	Daily	
Spelling	Tuesday	Test following Tuesday

The Rest of the Curriculum at a Glance	
Science	Light (1st half term); Electricity (2nd half term)
Computing	E-safety, General ICT skills
History	Local History
Geography	Maps – linked to the local History
P.E.	A range of activities on Tuesday or
Art	Sketching, painting, sculpture
PSHE	Returning to school after lockdown Being in my world
R.E.	What does it mean if God is loving and Holy?

Ways to support your child at home (You might be pros at this by now!):

- 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. **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 down in a notebook to aid retention.
- **Think carefully about how much screen time your child is getting. Late nights and gaming often negatively affect focus in class** and issues that have happened online can follow children 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. The children will sign our ICT Code of Conduct at school.

The NSPCC has a great website with ideas 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 Diary; handing in homework on time; having the appropriate resources such as classroom stationery, PE kit (Tuesday and 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:

Please record extra-curricular achievements outside the classroom in your child's Homework Diary. 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. I very much hope to see you all at the virtual 'Meet the Teacher Evening' on the **Wednesday 25th September at 6pm**, 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. Mrs Hale and I are 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 all your children.

Mr Owen

Year 6 Class Teacher