



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are looking forward to an exciting new term in Year 6. In this bulletin we aim to supply you with more detailed information concerning the work being covered by your children.

**English:** We will be comparing and contrasting a range of texts, including narratives by long-established authors, play-scripts and classic poetry. This term we will study the Jabberwocky poem and Shakespeare's Macbeth. We will continue to develop skills in grammar and punctuation throughout our English lessons. We also incorporate plenty of opportunity for drama and group work with a focus on spoken language. In Guided Reading, we will focus on developing skills in retrieval, summary, prediction, inference, analysing authorial intent and defining in context. We will begin to develop their formal comprehension skills, whilst reading the fictional tale *The Girl of Ink and Stars*.

**Mathematics:** This term, we will cover number and place value, including written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. As well as this, we will study fractions and work with converting units of measure. At the start of every maths lesson, we will practise and rehearse a Key Instant Recall Fact (KIRF). The KIRF objective for Autumn 1 is to know all multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12. The KIRF objective for Autumn 2 is to multiply and divide any given number by 10, 100 and 1000 up to 3 decimal places.

**Science:** The first topic we will study will be 'Light'. In this topic we look at beams of light and how light travels to enable children to understand how we see things. This understanding is then applied to the production of shadows and how light is reflected. Once this topic is complete, we will study 'Electricity' understanding how components of a circuit are affected by voltage. We will compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches. We will study and use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

**Computing:** Computing will be taught by Mr Shaw. Through the year, we will constantly refresh our knowledge and skills in e-safety. We will learn how to navigate the internet in an informed, safe and respectful way.

Unit 1 Bletchley Park: before October half-term, children will explore code-breaking and password-hacking.

Unit 2 Programming – Python: after October half-term, children will learn how to use the programming language Python to create designs, including Islamic art.

**History & Geography:** The Ancient Egyptians

Children will become historians, investigating the past and the use of evidence to help understand it. We will be focusing on the key features of life in Ancient Egypt e.g. transport, homes, occupations, religion, art and architecture and technology. We will be learning about the River Nile and its importance to both Ancient and Modern Egypt. Our work will also include using maps to look at Africa, Egypt and The Nile. A range of historical sources will be used to find out about the period. Our Egyptian assembly, for parents/carers, will be held on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 9.10am**. For this performance, children are invited to wear Egyptian-style dress. This year, we will be taking each class on a school trip to the British Museum to view the Ancient Egyptian exhibit. **The dates of these visits will be confirmed in the upcoming weeks and communicated to you via parent mail.**

**R.E:** This term, our focus religion will be Islam. Our key question will be: 'What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?'. We explore this by looking at the five pillars of Islam and the significance and meaning of each one in relation to larger festivals, as well as day to day life.

**PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education):** In PSHE lessons, we will continue to use Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) which is a teaching and learning programme that includes the statutory RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) curriculum and has a strong focus on emotional and mental health and wellbeing. This term, the children will learn about 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference', understanding the value of difference in people, their families and cultures, and celebrating their self-confidence and identity.

**Art/ Design and Technology:** The children will learn how to create a narrative through paintings in art and then in D&T children will be creating their own electronic and mechanical fairground structures with controllers.

**PE:** Children have PE twice a week: an afternoon Wednesday session run by teachers and Friday morning sessions run by NS Sport. It is very important that children have the correct kit at all times and we ask that children have their trainers in school during the week to enable them to complete the Phoenix Mile safely. Children will be permitted to wear their correct PE kit all day on Wednesday and Friday.

**Music:** This year, children will be taught music by a specialist teacher. As well as weekly singing assemblies and regular singing in class, children will listen to, perform and explore a wide range of music. In Year 6 this term, the children will be exploring pulse, rhythm and rounds.

**French:** This term, children will ask and talk about regular activities and talk about what they like/dislike doing. They will also compare French/British Christmas food and traditions as we approach the festive period.

**Thinking Schools:** The children will continue to use tools from their 'Thinking School' toolkit, including thinking maps, thinking hats and habits of mind. The 'Thinking School' methodologies aim to equip children with the thinking skills needed to effectively tackle problems across and beyond the curriculum, both at school and in the future, through deep and critical thinking.

**General Information:** In Year 6, we work very much as a year group and children are taught in a variety of classes and groups, supported by a number of adults. As part of this, and to prepare pupils for secondary school, we split into mixed-ability groups for our afternoon lessons: science, RE, PSHE, spelling, history and geography. Thinking School strategies are embedded in all lessons and we continue to ensure that child wellbeing is central to the way we run.

We are very fortunate to have Mrs Major as our HLTA to support us in maths and in English. We will continue to run interventions to help children wherever needed. To challenge the children's learning, we have the following expectations regarding home-based activities:

- Reading: children need to read **daily**, ensuring they have a broad and varied 'diet' of texts, authors and genres. Reading lists are available on the school website or from your child's class teacher and we will visit the school library each week. Children will receive a reading record book. We encourage pupils to use these effectively as they begin to take on more responsibility for themselves. We will look at reading records weekly to see how the children are progressing with their independent reading. The children will continue to use Renaissance Learning and have opportunities to quiz.
- Spellings: spelling rules will be taught **weekly** with suggested words that follow these rules being looked at during these sessions. We will test the children the following week. At the start of every half-term, we will send home a list of the rules and suggested words. These will also be available on the Year 6 website page.

Group 1 Curie: spelling test/lesson every **Monday**

Group 2 Attenborough: spelling test/lesson every **Tuesday**

Group 3 Darwin: spelling test/lesson every **Thursday**

- Maths: a variety of Mathletics activities will be set throughout the term, as well as many other lessons, games and activities being available through the Mathletics website, if the children want to give themselves further practice or stretch their learning. Children can continue to improve their agility using Times Table Rockstars! Children should complete their Mathletics homework weekly; this is closely monitored. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any problems accessing online homework.

The children may also be asked to do occasional research or complete extended projects to complement what we are learning about in class.

Year 6 is a very busy and important year for the children but one that we hope they will find enjoyable. It is particularly important that **attendance and punctuality are very good throughout the whole year.**

Our curriculum evening and PGL talk will be held on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm.**

**ADVANCE NOTICE:**

Cycling Proficiency (w/b 11<sup>th</sup> November or 18<sup>th</sup> November) - children will need to bring a bicycle, helmet and lock to school for the week they are assigned to – letters to follow closer to the time.

PGL – if you wish for your child to come to our Year 6 residential to PGL Liddington, please pay the deposit by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September if you haven't already done so. **Your child will not be able to attend if you have not paid this deposit.** All information was sent in a letter home before the summer holidays.

Secondary school transfer - Please also look out for important information that will be sent home with your child at the start of next week and emailed to parents/carers via ParentMail. The deadline for applications for Richmond and Wandsworth schools is **October 31<sup>st</sup>** but the boroughs strongly recommend all applications are completed by **October 15<sup>th</sup>**. Applications should be made online but paper applications can be requested **from the borough** by telephone using the details in the information you will receive next week. Please come and see us if you have any questions. If you require a reference for independent school admissions, information can be found on the Year 6 website and more information will be given in our curriculum evening.

We wish you and your children a happy and successful term and can't wait to get started!

Yours sincerely,

The Year Six Team