



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 6! We hope that you all had a wonderful summer and are ready for the year ahead. Our Year Six team is Mrs Whitton (Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoon), Mr Avis (Wednesday and Thursday) and Mrs Verhoeven (Friday morning) with Natalie and Sophie as our teaching assistants. We are all looking forward to teaching your children and guiding and supporting them in their final year of primary school. We hope that you and your children enjoy the learning and the challenges that Year 6 has to offer. Your children are already working hard and have shown a great interest and enthusiasm towards their learning.

This handout will provide an overview of what we will be covering this term, as well as expectations with regards to homework. We hope that you find it useful but please feel free to catch one of us in the playground or contact the office to arrange an appointment if you have any concerns or questions. You can also find the curriculum map for the whole year and how each aspect links within and across the year on the school website.

Reading

Each week your child will be read with in guided reading sessions. During these lessons children will read aloud, answer questions relating to the text and discuss the text as a group. There will be follow up activities which your child will complete in their read and respond journals. We will be studying two non-fiction texts in the Autumn term. Through these texts the children will develop key reading comprehension skills. *Black and British* by David Olusoga gives a short, essential history ranging from the first Africans to come to Britain through to the Windrush scandal. *Incredible Journeys* by Levison Wood will take the children on a journey around the world, discovering the most daring pioneers. Both texts link to other curriculum areas that we will be studying.

Your child has been given a reading record and we have ensured that they are reading a book which is appropriate for their reading level. Whilst we will make sure that some time is provided for independent reading in school, it is vital that children read for at least 15 minutes at home every day. Children are expected to answer a reading comprehension question each night and write a response in their reading record. Reading records should be brought to school every day and will be checked regularly. We would ask that you listen to your child read and sign their reading records at least once a week.

Your child will also have a weekly visit to the school library, this will take place on Friday afternoon. Please ensure any library books are returned on this day.

Writing

We will continue a book-based approach to the teaching of our literacy. Across the school, we have found that using a text as a stimulus for writing brings much enthusiasm and gives children a purpose to what they write. They will have a range of writing tasks both fiction and non-fiction, including writing letters, diary entries, stories, newspaper articles and non-chronological reports. In all lessons children will be learning or consolidating skills in spelling, grammar, punctuation and handwriting. Our first text is *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. This is a beautifully illustrated story of being a stranger in a strange place. Through this wonderful book, the children explore immigration and gain a deeper understanding of the experiences and challenges faced.

Maths

The expectations for Year 6 in relation to maths can be found in the maths handbook, which is on the school website, along with the sequence of study. We will have maths lessons every day following the *Maths, No Problem!* syllabus. We will start the term studying numbers to 10 million and then move on to the four operations on whole numbers, ensuring that all children have secured a good understanding of place value. If you're unsure how methods are being taught or of how they should be laid out, please check the Maths Methods Handbook, which is available on the school website.

It is expected that your child knows their times tables up to 12 in line with the national expectation for the end of Year 4. Please work with your children to support them with learning these if they are not yet confident as accuracy and speed in recalling multiplication and division facts is fundamental to mathematical reasoning and problem solving. The best way to practise these is for short periods (5-10 minutes) each day using *Times Tables Rock Stars*.

Religious Education

In RE lessons we will be trying to answer the question, how does worship and liturgy enable a Christian to grow their faith? These lessons will encourage children to consider the Christian practices of prayer and worship as well as why Christians express themselves in this way. Alongside this, children will be encouraged to develop their own spiritual identity. During the autumn term, we will also consider remembrance and we will end the term considering Christmas both spiritually and secularly.

Science

This term, we will be learning about light. Your child will have opportunities to learn about how we see shadows, reflection and refraction. They will learn how light travels and how it enables us to see. They will have opportunities to work scientifically and carry out investigations through this topic.

PSHE

At Boutcher School, we teach Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and relationships as a whole-school approach to underpin children's development as people and because we believe that this also supports their learning capacity. We use the Jigsaw Programme which offers us a comprehensive, carefully thought-through Scheme of Work which brings consistency and progression to our children's learning in this vital curriculum area. The Curriculum map can be found on the school website. The first topic being covered across the school is: Being Me in My World. In this unit, children think about understanding their identity and how they fit well in the class, school and global community.

Computing

We will start the year by covering e-safety where children will develop their understanding of how to stay safe online. We will continue to study computer programming through *code.org*. We will follow course F which begins by looking at how users make choices in the apps they use, moving on to use more advanced concepts, including variables and loops.

Topical Talk

We will continue to have weekly *Topical Talk* lessons. Through these lessons children will have opportunities to develop their critical thinking and communication skills and apply these to complex real-world issues. Please encourage your children to login and join the discussion!

PE

We will have PE on a Friday afternoon. Children should wear their PE kits to school and they will stay in them all day. This term we will be developing our PE skills through tag rugby.

Theme

This term our topic will be Islamic Civilisation. We will be learning about this the development of the great Islamic city of Baghdad including trading practices and everyday life, comparing it with contemporary cities in Western Europe. Children will learn about the spread of Islam through the Middle East and beyond.

Music

Children will continue to have violin lessons each week on a Monday afternoon.

Services

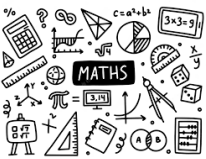


This year our theme is communication. We will spend the Autumn term understanding the different ways that God communicated with people through the stories in the Old Testament. We will consider the importance of good communication and the responses that people had to God when he communicated with them. We will reflect on the way we communicate ourselves and the way our words and actions can be interpreted. We would love for you to join us on Friday mornings at 10am in the school hall. The dates when we will be leading service are:

- Friday 29th September 2023 – Creation – The Spoken Word
- Friday 20th October 2023 - Joseph – Dreams
- Friday 17th November 2023 – Mary – Angels

Homework


Homework will look a little different in Year 6, with daily homework being set. We feel that this change in moving from weekly to daily homework is important as it not only provides children with the opportunity to consolidate their learning at home but it also helps to prepare them for their transition to secondary school.

Daily

Reading	As previously mentioned, your child is expected to read for a minimum of 15 minutes every night and to complete a reading comprehension question response in their reading record. We would ask that your child be given the opportunity to read aloud to you at least once a week with you commenting and signing their reading record. Reading records should be brought to school every day.
Daily Maths 	Each day your child be given 5 maths questions to answer in their maths homework book. This will give them the chance to consolidate prior learning. This book must be returned to school every day.
	Each week your child will have two spelling tests (Monday and Thursday). They will be given a spelling rule and 10 spellings on a Monday to learn, then a different rule and 10 spellings to learn on a Thursday. They will be assigned a spelling task to complete each night. This should be completed in their pink homework book. This book must be brought to school every day.
Times Tables 	Your child must complete a minimum of 25 minutes each week. We recommend that this is completed by practising for a minimum of 5 minutes each weekday. The time spent is calculated from that spent answering questions and not the time spent on the website. This will be checked on a Monday.

We will go through the maths and spelling homework with the children every day and further teaching will be provided if required. We would ask that you support your child in bringing these books to school **every day** as continued failure to bring completed work to school will result in working during lunchtimes and missing playtime.

Weekly

	Each week an article will be posted onto Google Classroom. We expect all children to read the article, engage in a discussion at home about what they have read and post a comment on the class Google Classroom page. This will support children with developing their literacy and oracy skills. This will be checked on a Wednesday.
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Whilst your children are growing in independence, please do support them in ensuring they have their belongings needed for each school day. It is also vital that they attend school on time at 8:45 as lateness is disruptive for everyone and opportunities to learn are missed.

Many thanks for your continued support and we look forward to a successful year.

The Year Six Team