

YEAR 6 TERM 1 2009/10

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year Six! We hope you've had a restful holiday and are ready for your child's last year in the Primary School. We have had a busy start and I'm sure the children now feel settled in their classes and are raring to go!

6B

Saturday	- PE
Sunday	- French and Swimming
Monday-	- French
Tuesday	- Choral and PE
Wednesday	- Music and ICT

6H

Saturday	- PE and ICT
Sunday	- French and Swimming
Monday	- French
Tuesday	- Choral and PE
Wednesday	- Music

6J

Saturday	- PE
Sunday	- French and Swimming
Monday	- French
Tuesday	- Choral and PE
Wednesday	- Music and ICT

Year Six is a particularly important year in Primary education. Preparation for the end of key stage tests will be ongoing but there will be a focus on these assessments towards the end of the Spring term. We would like the children to have a happy, productive time in Year Six without any undue stress and pressure placed upon them and we would welcome your support in this.

CURRICULUM

Literacy

The children will continue to follow the Literacy Framework this year. This term the range of texts and writing experiences emanating from these will include:

- Classic fiction
- Poetry and drama by long established authors
- Adaptations of classics on film and TV
- Autobiography and biography
- Diaries and journals
- Letters
- Journalistic writing
- Non-chronological reports

The development of spelling, grammar and punctuation will be ongoing throughout the year.

Numeracy

Again, the children will continue to follow the Numeracy Framework. This is a programme of work that constantly revisits and revises mathematical concepts and then moves children on to the next steps in learning.

This term the children will be looking at place value and revising the four rules of number. Other topics to be covered include money, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, proportion, measure, and shape and space.

All children on entering Year Six, are expected to know their multiplication and divisional facts.

Science

Our main science topic this term is called 'Interdependence and Adaptation of Animals'. The children will be extending their knowledge of the way in which plants and animals in different habitats depend upon each other and are suited to their environment. We will also be looking at the transfer of energy through a food chain. We hope to incorporate a field trip to allow the children an opportunity to examine typical pond food-chains first hand. The date of this trip will be published later in the term as it is dependent on tide times. We will also cover 'Micro-organisms' and will link this unit to Hand Washing Week and general hygiene.

Art and Design Technology

Our artwork is linked to our humanities topic, specifically to the experiences of children evacuated to escape bombing during World War Two. We will use Picasso's 'Guernica' as the basis for our mixed media pictures, working in pairs or groups to produce a large scale image.

Humanities

Our topic this term is an historical one entitled 'Change and Conflict since the 1930s', with a particular emphasis on life during the Second World War. It would very helpful if you could support your child with their research and encourage selective use of the Internet wherever possible. Also, if anyone has access to any war memorabilia including documents and photographs as well as artefacts, we'd be very grateful if you could loan them to us, as primary evidence is always much more exciting and rewarding when studying a particular period in history.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

ICT

This term children will experience how to create both a linear and non-linear (linked pages) multi-media presentation which combines text, sound/recordings, video, pictures and clip art. Information in the presentation should be suitable for the audience the pages are designed for.

Music

This is a busy term for Year Six. They will study one main topic entitled 'Rhythm and Pulse' focusing on samba rhythms from Brazil. This topic will develop the children's ability to perform rhythmic patterns confidently with a strong sense of pulse. They will play a variety of sounds using our Samba percussion kit and learn how to use cues as starting, stopping and break points. They will learn rhythmic devices used in Brazilian Samba music and the importance that this has within the carnival.

Following the success of the 'Last Choir Standing' concert in June, (1,000 rials was raised for various charities in total and the children's enthusiasm for singing was fantastic to see) I thought it only right and proper to have another one! This will once again be held towards the end of term three. It will be an exciting event and the children will be working hard throughout the year to improve their singing skills. There will be a series of lessons at the beginning of this term to capture their enthusiasm and identify the best features of choral singing. Watch this space for the date and time of this event!

Towards the end of the term they will take part in some short assessment activities as well as prepare for the Carols by Candlelight on December 5th.

French

Year Six have two, 40 minute lessons per week, one of which is taught in sets to allow newcomers to integrate easily to the French programme. The second lesson will be taught in class groups. All pupils will be using the highly acclaimed interactive program called 'Rigolo', which covers the four years of KS2. All four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are developed and this will be supplemented with games, songs and activities to engage all styles of learner. Topics this term are 'Le Week-end' which covers talking about leisure activities, and likes/dislikes, then 'Les Vêtements' which teaches clothes, opinions about them, what you wear and prices in Euros.

PE

The children will have two, one hour PE Lessons this year. The children come to PE as a whole year group and are taught each of the activities in their individual classes, by three members of staff. (1 on each activity) Each block of activity will last for six weeks including an assessment. The activities for this term and the first part of term two will be, Athletics (to prepare for Sports Day) Striking and Fielding Games and Gymnastics. (Lesson 1 on a rotation basis) and Dance, Touch Rugby and Basketball (Lesson 2 on a rotation basis)

S.E.A.L. (Social, Emotional, Aspects of Learning)

This term in CPSHE the children explore two main themes entitled 'New beginnings' and 'Getting on and falling out.' The first theme offers children the opportunity to see themselves as valued individuals and to contribute to shaping a welcoming, safe and fair learning community for all. Throughout the theme, children explore feelings of happiness and excitement, sadness, anxiety and fearfulness, and learn shared models for calming down and problem solving.

In the second half of the term we will be extending the work on 'New beginnings' and focusing on developing the social skills of friendship, working well together in a group, managing anger and resolving conflict.

Throughout the term we celebrate the children's achievements both in and out of school through our CLASSY boards. Any exams grades, certificates or medals that your children receive for efforts outside of school are a great addition, so please feel free to send them in.

COMMUNICATION

If you have any questions about the curriculum, or any other area concerning your child's progress, please arrange a meeting with the class-teacher. Brief queries can usually be answered via a note in the Personal Organiser. However, for a more in-

depth discussion, it is usually best to arrange a time after school. In order to strengthen Home – School communication, it is important that you speak to your class teacher in the first instance. If necessary, the matter can then be referred to the Year Leader, or to Miss Haynes, the Head Teacher. We are always pleased to discuss your child's progress with you, so please don't wait until a concern becomes a problem before speaking to us.

HOMEWORK

The children in Year Six will receive up to 40 minutes of homework, four days a week. We will endeavour to monitor the amount of homework set. In addition to this children are expected to read for 20 minutes, practise their spellings 10 minutes per day for a weekly test on a Wednesday and practise their maths target from their numeracy passport for 10 minutes each day. On occasions your child will receive a 'Talk' homework which will be discussion based – this will be in place of any other written homework that evening. Once a term children will have a longer term research project which will replace the other homework. We really appreciate a short note in the personal organiser if your child is unable to complete a piece of homework and your initials against the piece, to show where help has been given.

In addition, children will be receiving on-going targets in Literacy. These will be negotiated with the class teacher. Please feel free to work on your child's targets at home with them, as a home – school partnership is a very effective way of motivating children. (Every completed target gains a house point!)

Equipment needed

Although we do provide basic stationery equipment in school, it is preferable for each child to have the following **named** equipment:

- Pencil case
- Coloured pencils **not felt tips**
- HB pencils (preferably no erasers on the end please)
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- 30cm ruler
- Glue stick
- Fountain or Roller-ball pen (black or dark blue ink) **not biro**
- Set of highlighter pens
- Basic calculator with percentage button
- Pocket dictionary
- An old named shirt or apron for art and design technology lessons
- Scissors

Tuck Shop

The tuck shop is open to all Key Stage Two children for the first 10 minutes of first break on a daily basis. This facility is intended to supplement your child's healthy lunchbox and we would ask for your support in monitoring the amount of money brought in to spend. Thank you.

Residential Visit

The proposed residential visit is in its early stages of planning but we should be in the position to hold an information evening within the next few weeks.

Diary Dates

13th September – BSME Parents Meeting – 2:15pm (Multi Purpose Room and then classrooms)

15th September – Primary Meet and Greet Evening – (Main Hall)

27th September – Grandparents' Day

1st Nov – Parent / Teacher Consultations (KS1 & KS2)

3rd Nov – Parent / Teacher Consultations (KS1 & KS2)

5^h Dec – Carols by Candlelight

Finally

If you have any queries or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us. We're looking forward to working with you and your children this year.

Mrs Birchall (Year Leader)

Mrs Hayden

Miss Jones