



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Spring 2017

Year 6 Class Newsletter

Class Teacher: Mr D Bagwell

Welcome back to a new school term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity and kind wishes at Christmas and to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

This is the most important term in Year 6 as they prepare for the forthcoming end of Key Stage 2 tests. There will be a mock SATs week in April, just after the Easter holidays and the official SATs week starts on **Monday 8th May 2017**.

Attendance and punctuality are vital as Year 6 will be working under a tight revision schedule and there is limited time to revisit each topic should your child be absent.

Religious Education:

Along with class prayer and collective worship, Year 6 will continue to work from the Curriculum Strategy for the Archdiocese of Birmingham- Learning and Growing as the People of God. The themes we will cover include Followers of Christ, Lent, Holy Week and Easter.



About once every month Year 6 pupils are asked to volunteer to read at the 11.00 am family Mass on Sundays at Our Lady of Fatima Church. This is an excellent way for the children to serve their community especially as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation later in the academic year. Year 6 will also visit the church for Mass at 10.00am on Thursday 19th January. You are welcome to join us.



Year 6 has chosen St. Chad as their Class Saint and to celebrate his Feast Day on **Thursday 2nd March**, there will be a non- school uniform day for Year 6.

Year 6 Booster Groups:

The children have now been grouped into sets for Literacy and Numeracy for over 50% of the week so that we can target teach specific topics. Smaller classes and extra support will enable the children to make best progress. We are fortunate to be able to provide extra staff for these sessions -Mr O'Connor and Mrs Wakeman will also be working with Year 6 throughout the term.

Literacy:

This term Year 6 will cover a varied programme which includes Reading, Writing, EGPS (English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) and Speaking/Listening.

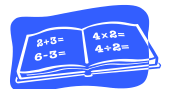
Through Literacy lessons Year 6 will continue to develop writing skills for a range of text types and will be specifically looking at ways of including more detail to improve overall writing standards. The EGPS test focuses on the children's ability to use these skills in every piece of written work. It is therefore vital that the pupils write and spell accurately to the best of their ability at all times.

This term's Literacy unit focuses will be:

- Biographies and autobiographies
- Classic fiction

Maths:

This term along with the SATs programme, there will be a 'push' on developing the pupils' written calculation skills, teaching them to apply their knowledge to SATs style questions. It is essential that the pupils know their times tables, square/prime numbers and equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages thoroughly. Please support your child with all revision. Encourage them to speak up if they have found a question in their revision they do not understand; we will endeavour to go over it with them. Revision sheets will be sent home with each child - please go through these on a regular basis.



Homework:

Homework is especially important this term as part of the revision process and supports the work completed in class. As we lead up to SATs week, homework will consist of a past SATs paper for reading and maths. Additional homework will be given throughout the week if required. Along with the daily homework please encourage your child to use the many other activities available online which provide extra revision.

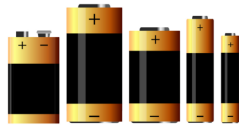


It is very important that you continue to monitor your child's daily reading at home as this impacts on performance in all subjects. Weekly spellings will be words from the Year 6 word list and we expect all pupils to make

every effort to learn and use these spellings accurately when opportunities arise. We are continuing to raise the standards of presentation and handwriting in all subjects.

Science:

At the start of the term, Year 6 will begin a Science topic on the theme of 'Light'.



Following that Year 6 will further develop their understanding about Electricity (understanding symbols, diagrams and incomplete circuits, and following two enquiries about the length of wire in a circuit and the use of cells).

Creative Curriculum:



The whole school theme this term is Water. Year 6 will cover a Geography topic for this unit looking at the Rivers. This will be an exciting chance for the children to understand more about the water cycle, how rivers get their water and what it is like to live on a floodplain.

Computing and I.C.T.:

In ICT Year 6 will be project managing their app design projects that were completed before half term, then they will become market researchers, using interviews and online surveys.

As well as building on the children's computing skills, Year 6 will continue to improve their abilities to work collaboratively and develop their speaking and listening skills in ICT.

P.E.:

This term Year 6 will be continue to practise striking and fielding skills as well as net and wall skills until half term.

We are extremely fortunate to have the support from Simon Lancaster from Lordswood and Circle Tennis Club in the delivery of these tennis lessons.



Also, if you have any spare swimming or PE kit, it would be much appreciated for the 'spare kit box' at school.

Home time arrangements:

Children in Year 6 are dismissed at 3.30 p.m. by the class teacher. Those with siblings in the infants walk around to meet their parents in the Infant playground, the rest of the class are dismissed to their parents on the Junior playground.



In the interests of safety for your child, if there are any changes to this routine, in light of the need for increasing independence for the older juniors, please let me know in writing and keep me updated of any changes. Please telephone the office staff if there are any last minute, unavoidable changes which will affect collecting arrangements.

Phones in school:

Pupils in Year 6 are only allowed to bring a phone into school if they are walking to or from school without an adult. A letter of consent must be provided by the parent. During school time the phone must be switched off and handed into a teacher for safe keeping throughout the day.

As you are aware we aim to work together with you to promote safe internet use. I have been recently made aware that a number of children are contacting each other using the messaging service WhatsApp. Please be aware that, although the children may be using this service in a friendly way, the minimum age restriction for this app is 16 years.

For your information:

YEAR 6 SATS

Testing arrangements for Year 6 have changed significantly and so we have arranged an end of Key Stage 2 Assessment Information Meeting which will be an opportunity for parents to find out more about the forthcoming tests, how the class are being prepared and how families can support their children. This meeting is on Monday 30th January at 2.30pm. A letter has already been issued regarding this important meeting.

Thank you for your continued support during this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of 'school life'.

Yours sincerely
Mr Bagwell