



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Spring 2018

Year 6 Class Newsletter

Class Teacher: Mr Bagwell

Dear Parents

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 we prepare for the forthcoming end of Key Stage 2 tests. There will be a mock exam week in April and the official test week starts on **Monday 14th May 2018**.

Attendance and punctuality are also 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.

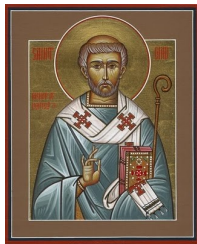
Religious Education:

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 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. We will also visit the church for Mass at 10.00am on Thursday 18th January. You are welcome to join us.

Year 6 has chosen St. Chad as their Class Saint and, to celebrate his Feast Day on **Friday 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 English and Maths for over 50% of the week so that we can target teach specific topics. Smaller classes and extra support will allow the children to make better 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.

English:

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

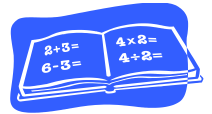
Year 6 will continue to develop writing skills for a range of text types and will be specifically looking at ways of including more detail to improve overall writing standards. The EGPS test focuses on the children's ability to use these skills in every piece of written work. It is therefore vital that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

This term's writing unit focuses will be:

- Biographies and autobiographies
- Fantasy stories
- Recounts

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.



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 testing 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 also trying hard to raise the standards of presentation and handwriting in all subjects.

T: 0121 429 2900

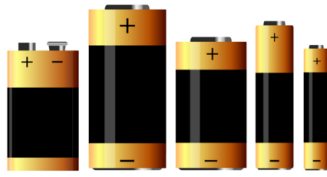
Email: enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Science:

At the start of the term, Year 6 will begin learning more about 'Light' in their Science topic.

Following on from 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 'Leaders'. Year 6 will cover a History and Geography topic for this unit learning about Maya. This will be an exciting chance for the children to discover where and when the Maya built their magnificent civilisation, how they lived and comparing their lives with life today.

Computing and I.C.T.:

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.

P.E.:

This term Year 6 will be continue to practise net and wall skills until half term, with a focus on badminton.



Following on from this, the class will focus on invasion games.

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

Hometime 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.

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.



For your information:

Testing arrangements for Year 6 have changed significantly in recent years so we have arranged an end of Key Stage 2 Assessment Information Meeting on **Monday 29th January 2018 at 2.30 pm**, 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.

A separate letter has been sent out 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