



Jericho Primary School

Class Newsletter September 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Year 6! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are keen and ready to start this academic year. Well done to everyone so far, as the children have settled into our classes beautifully and our classrooms have been busy and cheerful. We're particularly enjoying our topic work based on Benin and the Slave Trade and our exciting class reader, 'The Book of Stolen dreams'. The children are also setting a great example as mature, polite Year 6's already. What a fantastic start. We want your child to have a happy and successful time in their final year of primary school with us at Jericho. This letter will share important information with you regarding some of the routines and expectations in Year 6 to ensure a smooth transition.

The Year 6 Team

Our Year 6 team this year is: 6H: Mrs Coulson 6W: Mrs Parkinson & Mrs Fawcett

We also have two Teaching Assistants who will be supporting the year group: Miss Hunter & Miss Ormerod

Autumn Term Learning

This term our curriculum covers the following areas:

In Literacy we will be writing stories with a moral and move onto writing autobiographies and explanatory texts. In guided reading, we are studying from Slave Ship to Freedom Road, Henry's Freedom Box and other texts linked to our wider curriculum. We will be developing our understanding of how details about characters and settings are used to engage readers and add detail. We will be thinking about developing action, dialogue and balance in our descriptions and look at how we create cohesion across our paragraphs. We will be looking at semi-colons and how we use the past-perfect form of verbs to mark time and cause.

In Mathematics, we start by recapping numbers to 1,000,000 and powers of 10. We will be comparing and ordering any integers and then round integers before looking at negative numbers. We then move swiftly on to add and subtract integers and look at prime, square and cub numbers. We multiply up to a 4-digit number by a 2-digit number and then finally solve multiplication problems.

In Science, we start our term by looking at Light. We will recap on how light travels in a straight line (learning from Year 3). We will then look at how shadows are formed and thinking about transparencies, umbra's and penumbras. We move on to learn about refraction and investigate reflection of light using mirrors. Finally, we look at white light and light colour mix.

In History, we will be learning about the Benin Kingdom and the Slave Trade. We will look at what happened between 900-1897 and what is understood by the Golden Age of the Benin Kingdom. We will look at the crafts, guilds and trade of the Kingdom and then finish by thinking about colonisation and the transatlantic slave trade. We will consider this in relation to our home town of Whitehaven.

In our other lessons we will be:

R.E: In RE, children will learn about Buddhism and explore answers to a question: Can the Buddha's teachings make the world a better place?

Art: Sculpture and developing our observational drawing skills. In this unit, pupils will build upon their experience of using clay to learn how to sculpt a ceramic vase using the coil method. They will research African vases using this information to inspire their own designs. Pupils will use tools to carve patterns into the clay to create surface texture and choose appropriate paint the vases once dried. The children will further develop their observational drawing skills – in particular how to capture the form of a 3D object.

PSHE: Me and my relationships. Children will learn how to demonstrate a collaborative approach to a task and describe and implement the skills needed to do this. They will explain what is meant by the terms 'negotiation' and 'compromise' and suggest positive strategies for negotiating and compromising within a collaborative task; In their work they will demonstrate positive strategies for negotiating and compromising within a collaborative task and recognise some of the challenges that arise from friendships;

Music: All the learning in this unit is focused around one song: Happy, a Pop song by Pharrell Williams. Children will think about the message of songs and compare two songs in the same style, talking about what stands out musically in each of them, their similarities and differences. They will listen carefully and respectfully to other people's thoughts about the music. They will be encouraged to use musical words when talking about the songs and talk about the music and how it makes you feel, using musical language to describe the music. Pupils will be able to talk about different ways of writing music down – e.g. notation, symbols as well as performing and sharing music with an audience.

French: Les vêtements. In this unit, pupils will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to describe what they are wearing in French. This is a unit that brings together much of the grammar covered in previous years (nouns, gender, determiners, plurality, possessives, adjectival agreement, 1st person conjugation) so that pupils can say and write what they are packing in their suitcase for a holiday.

P.E: During tennis sessions pupils will develop their understanding of the principles of net and wall games. Pupils will be given opportunities to work co-operatively with others as well as independently, to lead and officiate showing honesty and fair play whilst abiding by the rules. Pupils develop their tactical awareness, learning how to outwit an opponent when playing individually and with a partner.

During volleyball sessions, pupils will develop their understanding of the principles of net and wall games. In all games activities, pupils have to think about how they use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition. Pupils will be given opportunities to work in collaboration with others, play fairly demonstrating an understanding of the rules, as well as being respectful of the people they play with and against.



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A basic outline is given below for your child's year group:

Literacy

- Daily reading (a minimum of ten minutes).
- 10 spellings. Five of these will be taken from the Year 5/6 statutory spelling word list which all children are assessed on as part of the SPAG SAT. The other five words will be based on a key spelling rule or subject-specific vocabulary being used in lessons.
- One page of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG)

Numeracy

- 10 arithmetic questions. These should be done over the course of the week that your child has their homework (focusing on a few each day) with the intention of developing rapid recall skills ahead of the timed arithmetic SAT.
- Times Table Rockstars - 10 minutes daily is recommended. A timer could be used to avoid over lengthy amounts of screen time spent on these apps.

In most cases, the SPaG and arithmetic questions will be based on what we have been learning about in class, as well as previously taught concepts from lower groups, however we understand that post-Covid there may be odd gaps in our children's knowledge. In these instances, we'd ask that children attempt the learning they are finding tricky as best they can, and then teachers will feedback on focus questions and continue to address gaps/misconceptions in class once homework has been uploaded.

Please look out for the grammar and arithmetic guides attached to your child's homework slides which explain terminology and useful strategies to help your child but do feel free to contact us if you have any questions; we are aware that many of the methods and terminology we model to your children are different to those we were taught

Uniform and PE Kit

We are incredibly proud of how smart our Year 6's look following the school's uniform policy. The expectations for PE kit can also be found here and this was ParentMailed out very recently. For health and safety reasons, we request that long hair is to be tied back in PE lessons and earrings should be removed. If they cannot be removed, then they should be covered with tape.

PE KIT

PE kit **MUST** be clearly labelled with your child's name.

A standard PE kit should contain;

- White t-shirt
- Dark shorts/ jogging bottoms
- Trainers
- All hair should be tied back and earrings will be covered if not removed.

PE Days:

PE days in both Year 6 classes for this half term will be Mondays and Tuesdays. Please send your child to school wearing their school uniform, and then the children will change into their PE kits.

Please be reminded that the classroom doors open at 8.45am, ready for a prompt and positive start to the school day. Gates are closed at 9.05am.

Homework Homework in Year 6 is sent home each Tuesday, and is returned the following Tuesday. The spelling test will be on Wednesdays.

Your support with home learning is vitally important this year in order to sustain the work that we do in Year 6. This will help to ensure that your children achieve as well as they possibly can in their SATs as well as preparing them for the demands of secondary

We are an outstandingly happy school!

Please keep an eye out for our happy 'Praise Postcards', Writer of the week badge, Golden Work and Star of the Week certificates.