



Jesus (the gardener) nourishes and tends us as we learn and grow, so that we can all flourish. As a vine, we are one, but all unique and special to Him. We care for each other, as God cares for us.



January 2026

Dear parents,

Welcome back to school after what I hope has been an enjoyable Christmas break. May we wish you all a Happy New Year and a special thank you for the lovely cards and gifts the Year 6 team received from the children at the end of term. We had a very busy and successful autumn term and I am sure the children will continue to put in the same effort and enthusiasm this term. The class made a great start to supporting the wider life of the school, for example during Open Day and in carrying out their various jobs, and we continue to encourage them in developing their resilience, independence and sense of responsibility as they prepare for their transition to high school.

Next week, we will be welcoming Mr Hart, a trainee teacher from the Ripley SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) programme, into our class. He will be working with us Monday to Thursday throughout the term.

Details of the curriculum we will be covering this term can be found on the Year 6 page of the school website. Please note that Y6 will be going swimming this half term, on Thursday mornings. Swimming kits will be needed as usual and if your child needs to wear goggles, a form is available from the school office (or can be downloaded from the school website - <https://scotforth-st-pauls.lancs.sch.uk/parents/current-letters>).

Homework will continue to be set regularly in Year 6, as part of the children's preparations for moving on to high school, and the children are expected to record their homework tasks in their PAL. Weekly homework will be organised as follows this term:

- We will be working on spellings each Friday, including issuing the weekly spellings which the children need to learn and which will be tested on the following Friday. Sometimes, this will involve learning individual spellings, or specific words from the KS2 lists.
- On Thursdays, the children will continue to bring home a Maths "Flashback 4" activity sheet. These sheets will include questions on both the previous and current week's learning in our maths lessons and should take no more than about 20 minutes to complete. These should be returned to school the following Wednesday. Later in the term we will move on to 10-minute challenges, which have a similar format but include topics from throughout Key Stage 2, as we prepare for SATs.
- From next Monday, 10 minute reading comprehension challenges will be sent home, to be completed and returned by the following Monday. We will be going through these in class on Monday mornings, so it is important the children remember to return them.
- 10 minute grammar and punctuation challenges will be sent home from week 3, in preparation for the SATs tests; they will be given out on a Friday, to be returned on the following Friday, when we will review them.
- Once we have finished reading "Goodnight Mr Tom", we will move on to "Holes" by Louis Sachar. The children will be expected to read some chapters from these books at home between lessons from time to time.

The children will continue to have time to read independently in school and should be encouraged to read daily at home too, recording this in their PAL. They should use their Y5/6 Reading Challenge sheet to help choose a range of books/genres. The Year 6 Recommended Reading List (stuck inside the PAL) gives lots of ideas for texts which are age appropriate. Please continue to support your child with their reading, particularly through discussion, even though many are now generally competent readers. The children have bookmarks which give question starters linked to the different reading comprehension focuses we use in class which you could use to support discussion. Please return books borrowed from school upon completion to ensure the shelves remain full and varied.

There will be another formal parents' consultation afternoon/evening after February half term but please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions in the meantime. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S. Huddleston

