



# All Souls' Catholic PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 6 – Autumn Term Newsletter

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

The memories of the summer holidays are fading and the reality and routine of school has set in! Nearly two weeks into the new term and the oldest group of children in school are now very much established as Year 6 and acting as positive role models. We have thoroughly enjoyed the beginning of term and it has been a pleasure to begin to get to know the children. They have already completed many pieces of work (including a few little baseline assessments) and set the foundations for the year ahead.

## Year 6 Expectations

For many reasons, Year 6 will be the most important year of your child's educational life so far. Year 6 is very much a transitional year as the children reach the end of Key Stage 2, end their time in Primary Education and take their first steps towards adulthood. As the oldest children, there is an expectation that they will set the example to the rest of school, in terms of their appearance, behaviour and attitude towards school life. Each morning we expect the children to arrive at school on time, in full school uniform and organised for the day ahead. It now needs to become very much their responsibility (not yours!) to ensure that this is the case, so if you need to, take a step back and allow them to learn to organise themselves, even if it goes wrong to begin with!

Within the classroom and school the children are in the process of being awarded jobs and responsibilities, which they will be expected to complete autonomously and to the best of their abilities.

The Year 6 curriculum is a very tightly packed one, which can only be stuck to by very careful time management. The children are going to have to work harder and faster than ever if they are going to keep up with the pace – as some of them have already discovered. There will not be time available for children to finish off work that wasn't completed within the lesson, so there may be times when they will be expected to work through parts of their lunch times or take unfinished work home to complete. We ask that all children complete each piece of work to the best of their abilities and organise it clearly, including homework, in accordance with the expectations of the school's policy for presentation. Where work falls below this standard, children will be asked to repeat the work, in their own time.

## Autumn Term Curriculum

The table below gives a brief breakdown of the units/themes that will be covered in Year 6 this half term, although, like all good plans, there is likely to be some variance as the term progresses. This will be updated as and when necessary:

Term	Numeracy	Literacy	Science	Geography	Art	RE	PE	ICT	Music
A U T U M N 1	Place Value, Decimals and Measurements	'Tuesday' by David Weisner	Evolution and Inheritance	Basic map work  Continents, Oceans and Countries	Paul Cezanne	Prayers in the Lives of Followers	Dance	Digital Media	Song Writing
	Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division and Rounding					Followers of Christ (Confirmation Unit)			
	Algebra					Outdoor Education			
	Statistics								

## Homework

Homework is a crucial aspect of school, particularly as time in lessons is at such of a premium, and I believe that when set appropriately and purposefully, it can facilitate huge progress in attainment. In Year 6, homework will come in a range of forms – some which are regular, weekly expectations and others which will be given as and when necessary. Your child has a specific homework book, in which they should complete all homework (unless otherwise directed). There is the expectation that the work completed in this book will be to the same standard as that which is completed in school.

Reading is the most valuable homework that your child could ever do and in Year 6 it is expected that they read for about 15 minutes each day outside of school. Whether loved or loathed, everybody has to read to get about their daily lives and so if your child has no interest in developing their reading as a passion, then they must develop it as a skill! They have been provided with a home reading record which should be completed daily, detailing what they are reading and with whom. I ask for your support in encouraging and monitoring your child's reading, and that you sign their reading record each week to confirm that what is detailed is a true record (even if it says that they haven't read anything!). This should be brought into school by your child each Monday so that either I or Mrs Elkins can sign it. Your child may still be on our school reading scheme, in which case they will bring a specific book home to read and return it to school to be changed. If this is not the case, then they are classed as a 'free reader' and may choose material of an appropriate ability to read. Please remember that reading is reading, and that reading the sport section of the newspaper with a certain level of interest is far more beneficial than pretending to read a Harry Potter book! Please also remember that, whatever your child's reading ability, there is much to be gained from spending time reading with your child and discussing books. Don't battle with your child over reading! If you are really struggling to get them to do it, talk to me and I'll battle with them instead. Those children who are not reading regularly at home, or do not complete their reading records, will be asked to attend a lunchtime or breaktime homework club to read.

Each week, on a Friday, the children will be a set a piece of Maths and English homework, which should be completed and returned to school by the following Wednesday. The work will, most of the time, link directly with the units of work which have been covered in school. Closer to SATs, it may be more revision based depending upon the needs of your child. In addition, you child should be practising their times tables daily, as we do in lessons. Children will also receive a spelling list on a Friday which they should take home and learn by practising frequently

ready for a spelling test the following Friday. These spellings are dictated by the government's expectations which are set out in the National Curriculum and outlined per year group in our Spelling Policy. Once I have got to know the children's spelling abilities, I will then be able to differentiate these accordingly.

### Residential Trip to Plas Dol-y-Moch

As you will be aware, Year 6 are due to visit Plas Dol-y-Moch at the end of the month. We are all really looking forward to it and sure that it will be a highlight of the year. Should you have any questions regarding this residential trip, please let me know.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

If you are intending for your child to be confirmed this year you should have already received contact from Fr Michael and hopefully signed up for one of the Sacramental meetings in the next couple of weeks. Confirmation is due to take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016. At some point during this term there will be a Confirmation enrolment mass – details of which I will let you know in the coming weeks. The children are very keen to be Confirmed and take on the responsibility of becoming full adult members of the church. Father Michael is quite insistent that the children receiving this Sacrament should be attending Mass regularly and be seen to support the Parish.

### Prayer Friends

A responsibility which goes with being in Year 6 is becoming a 'Prayer Friend' to a child who has just entered Reception. As a prayer friend, your child will become a layer of support for them, looking after them on the playground when necessary, talking to them about school, and accompanying them to Mass in school time, modelling how to behave and engage in prayer. Being a Prayer Friend is something which all Year 6 children love and take very seriously – and many long term friendships have begun from Prayer Friends.

### SATs

All Year 6 children working within National Curriculum requirements are legally obliged to participate in end of Key Stage 2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) which identify the attainment of children in Reading, Writing and Mathematics for national comparison. These tests will take place on the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016; it is crucial that your child attends school during this week.

In the coming months, further information and guidance regarding SATs will be issued to you, as well as a formal meeting and opportunity for you to ask questions. SATs are not something which either you or your child should be worried about – that is our job!

### School Website

Please visit Year 6's class page on the school website to see what we have been up to by reading our blog and looking at our gallery. You will also find a section for letters and another for homework where you can access digital copies of the work set each week, should the paper copies become lost.

**I am extremely excited about the year ahead and look forward to helping your children develop academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. I also look forward to working closely with you and meeting you at the open evening in October. In the meantime, should you have any questions, comments or concerns that you would like to raise with me, please make no hesitation in arranging to come into school to discuss them.**

Kind regards,

**Jo Hartwell**  
Year 6 Class Teacher

**Sarah Elkins**  
Year 6 Teaching Assistant