



All Souls' Catholic PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 6 – Autumn Term Newsletter

Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Welcome back!



It truly is so wonderful to be back and have our classroom full with the buzz of children once again! Each and every child entered our classroom on the first day back with huge smiles and buckets of enthusiasm, which straight away put a smile on our faces and made us even more excited about the coming year. We already feel like one big team in Year 6 and Mrs Quinn, Mrs Kerry and I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to teach such a kind, caring and hard-working bunch of individuals for their final year of primary school.

Year 6 Expectations

For many reasons, Year 6 will be the most important year of your child's educational life so far and the class have a lot ahead of them, in terms of their academic, personal and faith journeys. 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. I am confident that this class can rise to the challenges presented by Year 6; they have begun to show this by establishing themselves as positive role models and grasping all the opportunities, roles and responsibilities that have been thrown their way. All we ever ask in Year 6 is that everyone tries their best and in return they are sure to have their best year yet!

Autumn Term Curriculum

Below is an overview of the curriculum that will be covered in Year 6 this term. However, like all good plans, there is likely to be some variance as the term progresses; this will be updated as and when necessary:



Maths: We have already begun our first unit building on our knowledge of place value. Understanding the meaning of the value of digits in numbers is an important area of maths and will underpin many of the more complex units we will be building up to such as solving problems involving the four operations. We will also be getting to grips with co-ordinate grids, reasoning with shape and working with fractions. It is even more important that your child's times tables and related division facts are secure as this is an aspect of maths that provides the foundations to many other areas. Any extra practice at home would be of great benefit!

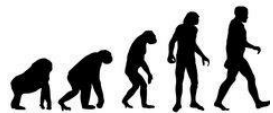
English: As a school, we are heavily focusing on exposing our children to a variety of different text types and equipping them with the skills necessary to be able to write their own versions of these independently. The text types we will be focusing on this term are descriptive writing, recounts, poetry, procedural and suspense narrative.

These units will be inspired through a range of stimuli and supplemented with discrete spelling, grammar and punctuation lessons to support their progression in each area of writing. They will also include plenty of opportunities to help develop our reading comprehension skills such as unpicking vocabulary, making inferences and predictions, explaining reasons fully using evidence, retrieving information and summarising.

RE: In our unit of 'Prayers in the followers of Christ', we have begun to develop our knowledge and understanding of the traditional prayers of the Church and some of the signs and actions associated with prayer. We will also study some prayers that are found in the scriptures and engage in the study of the Mass as the central prayer for Catholic Christians. Children will also be completing their unit of Sacramental preparation for Confirmation in which they will learn about the signs and symbols of Confirmation and gain an understanding of the gift of the Holy Spirit which they will be receiving. This term we will also be exploring the key religious beliefs from a variety of other religions.



Science: For the first half-term, our topic will be 'Living things and their habitats' (involving an interesting investigation surrounding mouldy bread!). Our following unit, 'Evolution and Inheritance', will see us exploring Charles Darwin's theory and creating new breeds of dogs.



Geography: 'Rivers and the Water Cycle' is our first unit of geography which includes a hands-on trip to Coombe Abbey Country Park. Children will be studying the River Smite, measuring its depth, width and flow.

History: 'Significant Wars' will see us exploring the chronology of the major wars from 1066 to the present and their impact on people's lives. We will be attending the War Memorial to participate in a WW1 workshop and contribute to a special remembrance service.

Art: We will be developing our drawing and sketching skills to create our own piece of art based on sweets and confectionery.

PE: Disc Sports, outdoor Learning, Hockey and Boxercise (*Please note that this term's PE lessons will take place on Thursdays and Fridays. Children are expected to have their full PE kit with them on both of these days.*)

Alongside this, we will also be aiming to tick off as many of our 101 tasks from the All Souls' 101 Pledge; we've already loved singing in the rain and have a sponsored 5 mile walk, trip to the cinema and first aid course to come!

Homework

Homework tasks will continue to focus on children's reading and regular practice of times tables and spellings. These basic skills are vital to their education. Keeping their knowledge sharp and learning to apply them in different ways will greatly benefit them this year. Homework will be set on a Friday and due in the following Friday, except for reading records which are due in on a Monday. We already have a reward system in place in the classroom which aims to help children strive to be each term's Reading Rockstar, Spelling Superstar or Timestables Trooper!

Reading – Reading is the most valuable homework that your child could ever do and in Year 6 it is expected that they read for a minimum of 15 minutes every 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! Children have been provided with a home reading record which should be completed frequently, detailing what they have read and with whom. To encourage our children to read a greater variety of text types and take their reading skills further, we have included an extra page for each term. This page consists of two bingo-style challenges that we expect children to take an active part in completing to their best of their ability. 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 and taken home every day to ensure it is an ongoing record. We will collect them in on each Monday so that we can also sign it and monitor their reading diet.

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. This does not mean that they are not able to read a book alongside this for pleasure but we do ask that the scheme book be prioritised as this is the one that will build their reading skills in a more scaffolded way. If your child is no longer on the scheme, then they are classed as a 'Free Reader' and may choose material of an appropriate ability to read. If they are struggling with what to read, please do encourage them to speak to me; I am more than happy to help and have a selection of personal books that I am willing to lend. We want to try and encourage children to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction books and genres. However, 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!

Spelling – Every Friday, Year 6 will be tested on their spelling. This test will consist of 5 words from the Y5/6 statutory word list (sent home the week before) and 5 words that are chosen in relation to testing the spelling rule that we have been focusing on in lessons that week. Children who practise their spelling at home as well as at school will always have more success in their spellings tests.

Times tables – Children will be receive a times tables challenge each week to complete at home under timed conditions. Please do try to ensure that children are completing these within the 4 minutes set (or stop when the time is up) as we are trying to increase our speed of recall and want to monitor the progress of this. I encourage the children, once they have completed their 4 minutes, to use a different coloured pencil/pen to fill in the rest of the questions as a good way of practising. It will only be their original answers however that are recorded as their weekly result. Dedicated times tables practice at home as well as at school will have a positive impact on the speed and accuracy of their maths and boost children’s confidence.

Other – At other times throughout the year, children may be expected to complete other tasks either in relation to their Sacramental preparation or more targeted exercises to bridge gaps or practise basic skills.

Residential Trip to Plas Dol-y-Moch

As you will be aware, Year 6 are due to visit Plas Dol-y-Moch from the 17th-21st November 2021. Further details will be sent out nearer the time. We are all really looking forward to it and are sure that it will be the highlight of the year. Should you have any questions regarding this residential trip, please let me know.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is due to take place on Sunday 12th June 2022. The children are very keen to be confirmed and take on the responsibility of becoming full adult members of the church; I am looking forward to guiding them on this journey of faith with the help of Father Burch. Whilst the children are very excited to choose both their sponsor and saint, we ask that they take the time to make such big decisions, waiting until they have gained a better understanding of both of these roles through our lessons and sacramental programme. Father Paul is encouraging children receiving this Sacrament to attend Mass regularly and be seen to support the Parish. Further details regarding sacramental meetings will be sent out soon.

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 9th May 2022; it is crucial that your child attends school during this week. During the coming months, further information and guidance regarding SATs will be issued to you. SATs are not something which either you or your child should be worried about – that is our job! Instead, they should be approached as an opportunity to showcase everything they have learned throughout their time in Key Stage 2.

School Website

Please visit the Year 6 class page on the school website to see what we have been up to by reading our blog which will be updated regularly.

Pledge 101: Singing in the rain EDIT
By Mrs J Hartwell 14th September 2021

Year 6 embraced the rain today and released their beautiful singing voices and dance moves to tick one of their 101 things from the All Souls' Pledge off!

Practical Maths EDIT
By Mrs J Hartwell 13th September 2021

We loved using the place value counters to create, calculate and prove it!

Dates for your Diary

Below are a few important dates for your diary. Please note that these are subject to change.

September 28th September:	Visit to Crow Recycling Centre
Thursday 30th September:	Confession
Friday 1st October:	Go Green for CAFOD
Tuesday 5th October:	Coombe Abbey River Study
Monday 11th October:	Draycote Water Sponsored 5-mile walk
Tuesday 12th October:	Year 4-6 Mass
Monday 18th –	
Tuesday 19th October:	Virtual Parents' Evening
Friday 22nd October:	Class Saint (St Pope John Paull II) Feast Celebration Day
Saturday 23rd October –	
Sunday 31st October:	Half Term (<i>inclusive</i>)
Friday 5th November:	WW1 Workshop at War Memorial Park
Tuesday 9th November:	Service of Remembrance at War Memorial Park
Friday 12th November:	Cinema
Wednesday 17th November –	
Sunday 21st November:	Dol-y-Moch Residential Trip
Friday 10th December:	Christmas Jumper Day
Saturday 18th December –	
Wednesday 4th January:	Christmas (<i>inclusive</i>)

***Please continue to check the school website and newsletters for additions/changes to the diary*

I am extremely excited about the year ahead and look forward to helping your child develop academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually – as well as having some fun along the way too, of course! I also look forward to working closely with you and speaking with you at our virtual open evening in October. In the meantime, should you have any questions, comments or concerns that you would like to raise with me, please feel welcome to email me: jo.hartwell@allsoulsschool.co.uk

Kind regards,

Mrs Hartwell
Year 6 Class Teacher

Mrs Quinn
Year 6 Class Teacher

Mrs Kerry
Year 6 Teaching Assistant