



Autumn Newsletter

Welcome back!

A huge and warm welcome back to you all. It has been wonderful to be back and have the classroom filled with the buzz of children once again! Although I am sure there were nerves, worries and apprehension but we couldn't have asked for more from the children as they have entered from day one with huge smiles, plenty to say and a willingness to give it a go. We are incredibly excited to see what this year is going to bring! It has been the start of new beginnings for your children and for our new staff team in Year 6. Mrs Kerry and I feel incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to teach such a kind, caring and creative bunch in this most important and special year to end their journey through 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 started to show this by establishing themselves as positive role models and grasping all the opportunities, roles and responsibilities that have been thrown their way. We ask children to be ready, respectful, and safe here at school and will only ever expect the children to try their best. 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:

<p><u>Maths</u> Place Value Measurement / Area and Perimeter Addition and Subtraction Multiplication and Division Fractions Shape</p>	<p><u>English</u> Recount – Diary Entry Narrative – Adventure Non-Fiction – Procedural</p>
<p><u>Geography</u> Journeys - Trade</p>	<p><u>Science</u> Living things and their habitats Animals including Humans</p>
<p><u>History</u> The impact of War</p>	<p><u>Art</u> Drawing and Sketching Colour: Mogdalini</p>
<p><u>Design Technology</u> Bridges</p>	<p><u>PE</u> Disc Sport Outdoor Activities Hockey Boxercise</p>
<p><u>Computing</u> Programming Creating Media</p>	
<p><u>RE</u> Story of the people of God Prayers in the lives of the follower of Christ Celebrating Mary and the Saints Advent Christmas</p>	

Alongside this, we will also be aiming to tick off as many of our 101 tasks from the All Souls' 101 Pledge

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 up with their practising of these basic skills and learning to apply them in different ways will greatly benefit them this year. Homework will be set on a Monday and due in the following Monday, including reading records.

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 detested, everybody has to read to get about their daily lives and so although we hope all children will love to read, 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. This should be brought into school and taken home **every day** to ensure it is an ongoing record and so we can hear them read in school. We will collect them in on each

Monday so that we can also sign it and monitor their reading diet. Remember that whatever your child's reading ability, there is much to be gained from spending time reading with your child and discussing books, so please aim to listen to your child read aloud at least once a week.

Your child has been banded on our new reading scheme books and they will be allowed to choose the book to bring home from that band every week. 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. We aim to 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! Don't battle with your child over reading: if you are really struggling to get them to do it, please contact me via email or on the gate and I'll battle with them instead!

Spelling – Every week, 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 spelling tests and using these spellings to support their writing.

Times tables – Children will 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 stopping when the time is up) as we are trying to increase our speed of recall and want to monitor the progress of this. If the children are struggling to complete within the 4 minutes, I suggest that they complete what they can in 4 minutes then use a different coloured pencil to fill in the rest of the questions to practise. 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. In addition to this, we recommend they use times tables rockstars as much as they can to increase speed and accuracy.

SPaG.com/TTRS: Every child should have their login details to both websites through which they can access any homework set via these platforms. If there are any issues around access to a device or the internet, please do let us know as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made.

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 12th-16th November 2022. 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 5th June 2024. 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 Paul. 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 has been in to talk to the children directly and has sent a letter regarding this sacrament. We encourage children receiving this Sacrament to attend Mass regularly and be seen to support the Parish.

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.

As an exciting year for the children begins, I am very much looking forward to working alongside you all to ensure that the children's best interests are always a priority. In October, you will all have the opportunity to book an appointment for Open Evening as a welcome and quick check in about how your child is getting on and I look forward to meeting you all properly then. However, should you have any questions or concerns before then, please do not hesitate to email and let me know. Year Six is a huge year for the children with many changes for them. There are many demands on the children to become more independent, take on responsibilities and challenge themselves. I will create every opportunity possible at school for the children to achieve and I am sure you will work to support me with this, to ensure the children are happy, healthy and confident individuals in the year ahead.

If you need to contact me at any point please don't hesitate, roisin.mcgrath@allsoulsschool.co.uk

Kind regards,

Mrs McGrath
Year 6 Class Teacher

Mrs Quinn
Year 6 Class Teacher

Mrs Kerry
Year 6 Teaching Assistant