



# Spring Newsletter

## Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a very happy start to the New Year. Thank you for all your kind words, Christmas cards and gifts – they were very much appreciated!

The Autumn term in Year 6 was filled with so much learning and progress (as well as some brain-pickling moments!) and the children should be very proud of the hard work, determination and perseverance they have shown, as we all are. We have also had plenty of fun along the way, with the highlight of course being our memorable trip to Dol-y-Moch! We have loved our VIP Reader each week, sharing in special events such as our Advent workshop and the Christingle service, visits to the cinema, potato picking, time spent with our prayer friends, and our end of term trip to the ice-skating rink! There is never a dull moment in Year 6 and we are hopeful that the rest of the year continues in a similar way with so much more personal, academical and spiritual growth to come!



## The Spring Term

Now that the Spring term is upon us already, the Summer term will also be here before we know it, along with those all-important statutory end of Key Stage assessments which are due to take place the week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024. For this reason and considering how short the term is in comparison to the Autumn term, the Spring term may feel more intense for the children as they continue to learn and consolidate their learning from KS2. It is therefore important that your child understands how valuable the next few months are for them and that they are fully prepared for school each day, mentally, physically, and organisationally to ensure that they make the most out of every learning opportunity.

## Spring 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><b>Maths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fractions, Algebra, Decimals &amp; Percentages, Area, Perimeter &amp; Volume and Statistics</li> </ul>	<p><b>English</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialogue, Formal Letter, Fiction Narrative, Non Chronological Report, Monologue</li> </ul>	<p><b>RE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christmas, Baptism &amp; Confirmation, Lent &amp; Holy Week</li> </ul>	<p><b>Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolution &amp; Inheritance</li> </ul>	<p><b>PSHE/RSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emotional Well-Being</li> <li>Me, My Body, My Health</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Geography</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting the Environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Year 6</b></p>		<p><b>History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Maya Civilisation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring Identity</li> </ul> <p>Disciplines: Collage, Drawing, Sketchbooks</p> <p>Artists: <a href="#">Nijideka Akunyili Crosby</a>, <a href="#">Yinka Shonibare</a>, <a href="#">Thandiwe Muriu</a>, Mike</p>	<p><b>DT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food &amp; Nutrition (Baked/Unbaked)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Spanish</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the Shops</li> <li>Discovering Spain</li> </ul>	<p><b>Computing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programming—Sensing</li> <li>Data &amp; Information—Spreadsheets</li> </ul>	<p><b>PE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Badminton (Weds pm)</li> </ul>

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

## Homework

Homework tasks will continue to focus on children's regular reading and practice of **times tables** and **spellings**. In addition to this, children will continue to receive a **writing task** each week, where they are encouraged to be creative and apply their learning independently and accurately. This year, we have also subscribed to Learning by Questions which we have been getting used to in the classroom. During the Spring term, we will be setting weekly '**Independent Study**' tasks for the children to complete at home to support their revision of key learning areas in both Maths and English. Homework will be set on a Monday (Wednesday for Writing) and due in the following Monday, including reading records. Alongside this, children are encouraged to continue accessing Times Tables Rockstars to ensure they retain and improve their recall of those key times tables and division facts. Please support us in encouraging children to complete homework tasks on time and to the best of their ability. Not only will this support their progress this term, it will also help to prepare them ahead of their secondary school journey.



## Sacrament of Confirmation



Confirmation is due to take place on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024**. The children are very keen to be confirmed and take on the responsibility of becoming full adult members of the church. They have become increasingly willing to participate in Mass through volunteering to read, offering prayers of intention and altar serving. We encourage children receiving this Sacrament to attend Mass regularly and participate in the programme of Sacramental Preparation to continue to grow in their faith.

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**; it is crucial that your child attends school during this week. Thank you to everyone who attended our SATs information evening in the Autumn term; below is a reminder of the key dates for each assessment. Further details regarding timings will be communicated with you early in the Summer term. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Please be assured though that SATs are presented to our children in a positive light as an opportunity to showcase everything they have learned throughout their time in Key Stage 2, not something that they should be worried about.; we will continue to focus our PSHE sessions on ensuring children are emotionally ready, as well as academically ready, to give them their best!

Date	Test
Monday 13th May 2024	Grammar & Punctuation test - 45 minutes Spelling Test - 20 minutes
Tuesday 14th May 2024	English Reading Test - 60 minutes
Wednesday 15th May 2024	Mathematics Arithmetics (Paper 1) - 30 minutes Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 2) - 40 minutes
Thursday 16th May 2024	Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 3) - 40 minutes

**SATs 'Boosters':** We will be using **Learning by Questions** to support our SATs boosters this term which will commence on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**. To begin with, the sessions will run from **8.00-8.30am** on **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** and will be led by school adults in the Year 6 classroom to support the revision of Maths, Grammar and Reading. We strongly encourage all children in Year 6 to take up this opportunity as, historically, children who have attended booster sessions have made significantly more progress than those who have not. Following a successful trial, we are hoping to increase the number of sessions to daily. Children are welcome to bring a healthy breakfast snack to consume during or at the end of the session, so that they are ready for the school day. Please note the hall door will be open from **7.50am-8.00am**, after which any children that arrive will not be able to enter the school building due to staffing

## VIP Readers

Thank you to all those who have volunteered yourselves - or others! - to be a 'VIP Reader' so far this year. It genuinely is a highlight of our week to find out who is behind the book, what they've chosen to read and have the opportunity to ask some questions. We have had authors such as Caz Frear, Hannah Gold and Michelle Evans (virtually), parents and other family members, past teachers, members of our parish community including Father Paul and even Dash the miniature dachshund, complete with Christmas attire! If you, or anyone you know, would like to share a snippet of your favourite children's book, poetry, news article or even something original, please get in touch!



*Please do visit our Year 6 blog on the school website regularly to see what we get up to in Year 6! I look forward to seeing you again in March for our Open Evening; however, should you have any questions or concerns before then, please do not hesitate to email or make an appointment. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.*

Kind regards,

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