



# Spring Newsletter

## Happy New Year!

We 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, sharing in special events such as our Advent workshop and the Christingle service, VIP Readers and virtual author visits, trips to the cinema, 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. 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> <p>Algebra Statistics Fractions Decimals Percentages</p>	<p><b>English</b></p> <p>Film Review Free Verse Poetry Suspense Narrative Formal Complaint Letter Monologue</p>	<p><b>RE</b></p> <p>Christmas Baptism &amp; Confirmation Lent Holy Week</p>	<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>Evolution and Inheritance</p>	<p><b>Multiplication Tables Focus</b></p> <p>8x and 11x (Spr 1) 6x and 9x (Spr 2)</p>
<p><b>History</b></p> <p>The Maya Civilisation</p>	<p><b>Geography</b></p> <p>Protecting the Environment</p>	<p><b>Year 6</b></p> <p>Spring 2024-25</p>	<p><b>RSE</b></p> <p>Religious Understanding Emotional Wellbeing Me, My Body, My Health</p>	<p><b>PSHE</b></p> <p>E-safety</p>
<p><b>Art</b></p> <p>Exploring Identity</p>	<p><b>DT</b></p> <p>Baked and unbaked goods</p>	<p><b>Spanish</b></p> <p>Phonics Culture Exploring a Spanish Town</p>	<p><b>Computing</b></p> <p>Programming –sensing Data and Information - spreadsheets</p>	<p><b>PE</b></p> <p>Badminton Table Tennis</p>

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

## Sacrament of Confirmation



Confirmation is due to take place on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 at 11.15am**. The children are excited about this important step in their faith journey, as they prepare to take on the responsibility of becoming full members of the Church. They have shown an increasing willingness to participate in Mass by volunteering to read and offering prayers of intention. As part of this journey, we encourage families to prioritise regular attendance at Mass, especially at our School Celebration Masses on the first Sunday of every month. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to deepen their connection with the parish and nurture their faith as they prepare for this special Sacrament. Father Paul's Sacramental Preparation programme is designed to support this spiritual growth, and regular Mass attendance is a key part of embracing the full life of the church. Let's work together to help the children take on this responsibility with joy and commitment as they grow in their faith.

To support the children in their sacramental preparation this term, we would like children to complete the following tasks:

- 1) Baptism Photo and Information - to support us in learning more about Baptism and the links between this Sacrament and that of Confirmation, children who have been baptised are asked to complete the attached document and return it to school by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.
- 2) Confirmation Sponsor – on the day of Confirmation, children will be presented to receive the Sacrament by their sponsor. This is someone they choose and should be someone who they have a great respect for and who they can look to for guidance and support in their faith journey. Children should take some time to think about who they would like this to be, ask them and, should they agree, complete the 'My Confirmation Sponsor' sheet with information about them and return by **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**. Hopefully, this will give them enough time to think this through and ask the person they have chosen if they would like to support them in this journey. Although this is the child's choice, there are some rules for them to consider when making this choice:
  - *The role of a sponsor is to help educate you and prepare you for the Sacrament of Confirmation; they will also stand with you during the administration of the Sacrament. The role of Confirmation sponsor does not end with the reception of the Sacrament - your Confirmation sponsor will be a guide for the rest of your life as an adult in the Faith.*
  - *Is one of your **baptismal godparents** available to be your Confirmation sponsor? If so, that is the best option, since this emphasises the unity of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.*
  - *If neither godparent is available to be your Confirmation sponsor, then you must select someone else. First, check whether or not your prospective sponsor is a Catholic. Your sponsor must be a **practising Catholic** who lives the life of faith.*
  - *Check whether or not your prospective sponsor has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. **Your sponsor must have received these sacraments of initiation.***
  - *Check whether or not your prospective sponsor is **over the age of 16**. Your sponsor must be at least 16 in order to be sufficiently mature to give you guidance in the faith.*
  - *Although any other relative could be a suitable choice, **you cannot have either of your parents** as your Confirmation sponsor.*
  - *Finally, your Confirmation sponsor's role involves giving support and guidance to you in preparing for Confirmation, and also a good example in their own way of life. Be sure to select a sponsor who **leads a virtuous life as a faithful Catholic**. They must be willing to support you and take an interest in your preparation and obviously they must be able to attend your Confirmation mass.*
- 3) Saint Project – see attached information. Due **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.

## 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 also begin setting '**Independent Study**' tasks for the children to complete

at home to support their revision of key learning areas. Homework will continue to 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, but it will also help to prepare them ahead of their secondary school journey. Please note that homework is uploaded to Google Classroom each week so if children ever lose their hard copy, they can check it here.

## 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 Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**; it is crucial that your child attends school during this week. We will be holding a SATS

Date	Test
Monday 12th May 2025	Grammar & Punctuation test - 45 minutes Spelling Test - 20 minutes
Tuesday 13th May 2025	English Reading Test - 60 minutes
Wednesday 14th May 2025	Mathematics Arithmetics (Paper 1) - 30 minutes Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 2) - 40 minutes
Thursday 15th May 2025	Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 3) - 40 minutes

Information Evening for parents on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 3.30-4.30pm** which we hope as many of you as possible are able to attend. 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!

**SATs 'Boosters':** We will be using *Learning by Questions* to support our SATs boosters this term which will commence on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025**. 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. 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 and safeguarding purposes.

*Please do visit our Year 6 blog on the school website regularly to see what we get up to in Year 6! We look forward to seeing those of you who are able to attend our SATS Information Evening later this month and 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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