

## Year 6 – Spring Term Newsletter



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

### Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a very happy start to the new year. Thank you for all of our Christmas cards and gifts – they were very much appreciated so thank you! The Autumn term has flown by and the Spring term is upon us already, meaning the Summer term will be here before we know it, along with those all-important statutory end of Key Stage assessments in May. For this reason, it is the Spring term of Year 6 that proves to be the most important and intense, as the children consolidate their learning throughout KS2. It is vital that your child understands how important the next few weeks are for them and that they are fully prepared - mentally, physically and organisationally - for school each day. During this term, the children can expect more time given to Literacy and Numeracy to ensure that the Year 6 curriculum in these is largely covered before Easter. Other subjects will continue, however, some will have far less weighting on the timetable. This imbalance will, of course, be addressed in the Summer term.

### Spring Term Curriculum

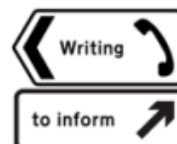
Below is an overview of the curriculum that will be covered in Year 6 this term. However, like all good plans, there is likely to be some variance as the term progresses; this will be updated as and when necessary:



**Maths:** This term, we are focusing on fractions, decimals and percentages, including converting and finding equivalences; learning the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, including measuring and calculating angles; using algebra to solve number problems; reading, writing and converting measurements and lots more! It is extremely 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:

- Narrative
- Formal and Informal Letter Writing
- Persuasive Leaflets
- Newspaper Reports
- Non-chronological reports



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: Our next of RE is 'The Story of the People of God', through which we will be developing our knowledge of the range of styles of writing found within the Bible, understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ today, become more familiar with figures and stories of the Old Testament and consider the effect of sin on the world. Alongside this we will also be continuing with our Confirmation units to ensure the children are ready to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the celebration of this Sacrament.

As it is the Year of the Word, we will be spending more time in class focusing on Matthew's Gospel; we have also introduced Lectio Divina into our classroom as a form of religious meditation to focus on the Living Word.



Science: This term, our first unit is 'Electricity' in which we will have the opportunity to get hands on exploring and making electrical circuits before exploring how we see in our following unit, 'Light'.



Geography: 'Volcanoes, Earthquakes, Oceania and Remote Islands' is our next unit of geography which relates to this half term's Homework Study Task of 'Remote Islands'.

History: 'Significant Wars' will see us exploring the chronology of major wars from 1066 to the present and the impact on people.

Art: We will be studying the technique of lino printing, using our Confirmation Saints as inspiration before moving on to creating Jeepers Creepers Rock Eye Peepers!

DT: Children will have the opportunity to research, taste and make a bake or unbaked dessert!

PE: Dodgeball and Gymnastics (*Please note that this term's PE lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Fridays. Children are expected to have their full PE kit with them on both of these days*).

Music: Song-writing.

Spanish: We will be continuing to expand our knowledge of Spanish vocabulary and grammar, including learning the names of some key high street stores, with the help of Miss Hillyard who volunteers her time in Year 6 every Tuesday.

### Homework

As we are getting closer to SATs, children will receive more homework. Please be assured that all homework set is purposeful to your child's learning and the expectation is that it is completed to the highest standard. Some children were inconsistent in this last term but we hope that they too see the importance of completing all tasks set to the best of their ability. I fully understand that homework and reading can sometimes become a bit of a battle at home. If this is the case, please let me know so that I can try to help in some way. If your child wishes to complete additional work to help them consolidate aspects of Maths and English which they feel they need further practice in, I will happily provide them with something suitable. Additionally, there are a lot of fantastic websites out there that can help make this consolidation process more fun. I will aim to add some of these links on to the website for easy access. It is paramount that children put all their efforts in to their work this term, achieve the best standard they can, achieve their potential in SATs and can be proud of themselves.

As we move closer to SATs we work hard to ensure that all children are as prepared for them as possible. It is very important that your child's attendance is as high as possible this term. There continues to be a strong correlation

nationally between children's attendance and progress. Particularly this term, recovering ground lost through days off school will prove very difficult as time is at such a premium.

At times throughout this term, your child may receive extra Numeracy/Literacy booster lessons before school or during the school day in a small group or even 1-to-1. These might be one off sessions to fill a small gap in their learning or a part of a longer programme aimed at consolidating or extending their understanding of particular concepts. You shouldn't, therefore, be alarmed or concerned if your child comes home saying that they have received such extra support - nor should you be concerned if they don't!

### **Website**

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to look at the Year 6 section of the school website. There you can find out some highlights of what they have been up to, find out what areas of the curriculum they have been studying and any other extra-curricular activities they may have been involved in.

### **Dates for your diary**

Below are a few important dates for your diary. Please note that these are subject to change; always check the diary and weekly newsletter for up to date information.

**Sunday 9th February:** Year 6 Homily Mass (9.30am – 10.30am)

**Tuesday 11th February:** Safer Internet Day 'Together for a better Internet'

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February :** Valentine Disco

**Wednesday 17th February:** Visit from Mr. Alan Ames and his Birds of Prey

**Friday 21st February:** Mid-year Report Cards

**Monday 24th February – Friday 22nd February:** Half Term (inclusive)

**Thursday 5th March:** World Book Day

**Tuesday 10th – Wednesday 11th March:** Parent Consultation Evenings

**Saturday 14th March:** Baptism and Belonging (5pm – 6pm)

**Tuesday 17th March:** St.Patrick's Day Coffee Morning (9.15am)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March:** Y5 & 6 Mothers' Day Lunch

**Saturday 4th April:** Confession (10.30am - 11.30am)

**Sunday 5th April:** Year 6 Passion Palm Sunday (9.30am – 10.30am)

**Friday 10th April – Friday 24th April:** Easter Holidays (inclusive)

### **Welcome, Miss Gallagher!**

We will soon be welcoming Miss Gallagher into our classroom. Miss Gallagher is currently undergoing teacher training at the University of Warwick and after prior successful placements, is excited and enthusiastic to meet and get to know our children. She will initially be teaching Year 6 for a couple of hours per week, although this will increase as the placement progresses. Please help me to make her feel very welcome here at All Souls'.

### **A note from Mrs Hartwell**

*On a personal note, I have to say that this academic year so far has been a brilliant one filled with lots of learning, laughter and exciting trips and activities. Miss Quinn, Mrs McCloskey and I often remark how lucky we are to have such a brilliant class of children bursting with a variety of personalities. I have to nag at them occasionally, particularly those who don't always work to the best of their ability, but largely, every day with them is an absolute pleasure.*

*I look forward to seeing you and sharing with you your child's progress at the parent consultation evening later in the term. As always, should you have any concerns, or there be anything that you wish to discuss, make no hesitation in coming to see me – the door is always open!*

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**Kind regards,**

**Mrs Jo Hartwell**