

# Welcome to Year 6



Friday 14th September 2018

## Year 6 Information Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to wish you all a very warm welcome to Year 6! The aim of this letter is to give you an introduction to your child's final year at St. Andrew's and to give you key information about events and expectations. The attached Topic Web will also provide further information about the learning that is planned in the first term.

### Staff Team

In Year 6, we work as one team, often coming together during lesson times and mixing up between the classes for lessons and events. Here is an outline of the staff who will be working alongside your children this year:

**Mr White** (Teacher of 6W)

**Miss McCarter** (Teacher of 6M)

**Mr Griffiths** (6G)

**Mrs Dearlove Mrs Clapham and Mrs Mangan** (Year 6 Teaching Assistants)

**Mrs Samuel** – PPA Cover (Tuesday fortnightly)

**Miss Noble** – PPA Cover (Tuesday fortnightly)

**Mrs Lilley** - PPA Cover (Tuesday fortnightly) and SMT Cover

**Mrs Lelean** – Music Provision

**Mrs Partridge** – French Provision

**Mr Maddox**– Individual Needs Assistant

**Miss Gibson** – Individual Needs Assistant

### Year 6 Aims and Expectations

The aim of this year is to work hard and to aim high, to take on responsibilities, to become independent, and to feel ready for the impending move to secondary school. Your children will take on a range of 'jobs' around the school (such as 'recycling monitor' and 'office assistant') and they will become a buddy to a Reception child. We have high expectations of the children with regards to behaviour and attitude; it is up to Year 6 to set an excellent example to the rest of the school. There are many perks to Year 6 too and the children will find that there are quite a few treats and additional opportunities along the way!

## Topics and Learning

Autumn Term – *Discovering New Lands*

Key text – “The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe”

Spring Term – *Footsteps into the Unknown (Doctor Who)*

Key text – “Kensuke’s Kingdom”

Summer Term – *Moving On and Changing*

Key Text – “There’s a Boy in the Girls’ Bathroom”

These may be subject to change depending on our planning.



## Reading

Reading is so vital! There are children who read a lot and are “natural readers” but we want to try and inspire all children to have a love of reading. There will be ERIC time (Everybody Reads in Class) at the beginning of the school day to allow the children time to read and to record their reading in their Reading Records. Reading Records will stay in school and they will update them here so we can monitor the children’s reading without diaries being left at home but we do encourage the children to take their reading books home regularly. They are very welcome to bring in books from home also.

For Guided Reading sessions, the children will be in ‘book groups’ where they will choose a book together from the KS2 library sets. Within this group, they will have a chance to discuss plot, character and authorial techniques which will help them to develop comprehension skills and a love of reading.

## Writing/Grammar

The children will learn a range of writing “recipes” covering different genres of writing; these give the children a framework around which they can be technically accurate but also creative. We will be teaching key grammar alongside this, discreetly and as part of English lessons, in preparation for SATs but also to allow the children to become better at recognising key features, editing and improving their work.

## Maths

Children need to be secure in their times tables. We will be continuing to use a variety of different activities to support their but the children must make an effort to be secure by practising at other times. Those having real difficulty should learn the basic ones and then learn the squares (6x6, 7x7 etc) from which they can work out the others – better to start with what you know! By the end of the year they should know all their times tables up to 12 x 12!

In the current curriculum, there is notable emphasis on using specified methods (such as long division and long multiplication) when solving problems. We will send home clear guidance with homework tasks to help your children (and you!) with these; all the learning will build on methods they have already encountered in Year 5. It is important the children get used to showing their working out wherever possible so please do encourage this when your children are completing any maths homework.

## PE

Even though it is timetabled, PE can happen on any day so please make sure your child has a labelled PE kit in school at all times, along with trainers and warm, waterproof layers for when we head into the colder months. We aim to get outside as much as we can.

## Extending the curriculum

We also take every opportunity to extend the curriculum by taking up all appropriate offers from other organisations. Here are some events the children have to look forward to:

- Visit to take part in theatre workshops and to see productions at Blatchington Mill.
- Brighton Festival Children’s Parade
- Bikeability Bike Fix Sessions
- Safety in Action event

- Year 6 French Residential Trip (17<sup>th</sup> – 21st June 2019)

More details will follow on our fantastic residential trip to Le Touquet in France. The trip may include visits to Nausicaa Sea Life Centre, French Market, Snail Farm, Chocolate Factory, Bagatelle Theme Park, WW1 Cemetery, Beach, Steam Train Ride, all for the approximate price of £420.

### Homework

- The amount of time suggested that your child spends on their homework in Year 6 is two hours per week, not including reading, times tables practice and additional spelling tasks.
- We try to set interesting and relevant homework and we always accompany the task with clear guidance notes.
- We do “encourage” children to complete homework on time as this is so important for Secondary School.
- Children need to be trained in how to complete homework sensibly so it would be very helpful if you could assist with this – make sure they do not tackle their homework at the last minute and help them to find a quiet place to concentrate (not in front of the TV!)
- We will usually say that the use of a PC is allowed if it is appropriate (for example, typing up some written work). All homework should be presented neatly, using a pencil for maths work and a handwriting pen for any written work.
- The tasks will be handed out on paper and loaded onto the school’s VLE. (NB: New ‘log ins’ and passwords will be issued shortly).
- We rarely set any homework that is due in the next day. It is often the week after, or possibly longer, depending on the tasks set. The day/date for handing in is purposefully varied to give your child a chance to organise themselves and to manage their time effectively.
- Please do use the games and activities on the VLE too as these will really help with your child’s learning.
- If you have any problems, come and see us! Please don’t worry.



### SATS – key information and dates

The government introduced new assessment arrangements for all pupils in primary schools three years ago. The traditional levels that children were expected to achieve have been replaced with a new system where they are no longer given a ‘number’, i.e. ‘level 5’. The children’s progress is graded with a scaled score from 80 – 120 based on the marks they achieve in the tests (with 100 being ‘expected’). The dates for SATs week this academic year are: **13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019**.

- Please avoid booking holidays in this week, but also the weeks directly before if possible.
- SATs are important and we give the children the opportunity to do their best; we also try to make it as stress-free as possible.
- We also point out that they are only a snap shot of 7 years work. All they can do is their best. No-one knows results (except us and you). Children will also get a Teacher Assessment for those who do not perform well in a test situation.
- Once they get going, the majority of children really enjoy the challenge and rise well to it.

Dates and Papers (as far as we know!)

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1: Spelling Paper 2: Grammar and Punctuation
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	English Reading Paper
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Mathematics Paper 1: Arithmetic Mathematics Paper 2: Reasoning
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning

Writing is assessed by your child's class teacher; we collect a range of work from the children over the year. The children will either be recorded as 'working towards', 'age-related' or 'greater depth'.

### **End of Year arrangements!**

This feels like a long way off, but it is important to give you advance warning of some of the end of year dates.

- Secondary Transfer days and visits to be organised and visits from Secondary teachers.
- Leavers' Service and Eucharist on last day of term – Y6 parents invited – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
- Year 6 Leavers' Presentation and Tea – Y6 children only! (No siblings please!)– 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
- Leavers' DVD on sale (featuring all the main highlights from your child's time in Year 6!)



### **Contact details**

Mr White: [davewhite@st-andrews.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:davewhite@st-andrews.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

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We are all looking forward to a fantastic year working alongside your children and we hope this letter has given you some useful information about the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Megan McCarter, Mr Steve Griffiths and Mr Dave White