

Year 6 newsletter

Autumn Term 1



Welcome!

Welcome back to the new academic year. The children have made an excellent start to Year Six, embracing our 'Bears' theme. Everyone has settled well in to the routines of Year Six and we are really proud of the children's hard work so far.

A brilliant start to the new school year! ❤️

Our Autumn Term One Topic: The Ancient Maya/Mexico!



In **English**, we will be focusing our writing around the fascinating country of Mexico. Here is a simple overview of what writing we will be doing each week:

Weeks 2 and 3 – Non-chronological report about Mexico

Weeks 4 and 5 – A persuasive travel advert for Mexico

Weeks 6 and 7 – Narrative based on the film 'Coco'

In **Maths**, the children will consolidate and develop their current understanding of place value and formal written methods. This will include work on rounding, negative numbers and decimal numbers. The children will engage in reasoning and problem solving throughout the half term. Here is a simple overview of what we will cover each week:

Week 2 – Decimals and negative numbers

Week 3 – Negative numbers and BODMAS

Week 4 – Factors, multiples & assessments

Week 5 – Long multiplication

Week 6 – Short division & introduction to long division

Week 7 – Long division continued

In **Science**, children will be learning about 'Living Things and Their Habitats'.

This involves classifying animals, developing an awareness of the work of Carl Linnaeus and learning about microorganisms.

In **Music**, Mrs Horwood will be looking at cyclic patterns with the children. This comprises of listening to and composing a variety of music in different styles.

In **R.E.**, the children will be learning about the sacred texts within Christianity, Islam and Sikhism. The children will research some of the key messages within each of these texts before comparing them.

In **P.S.H.E.**, we will be looking at the value of the month for September – 'Respect'.

The other value of the month for this half term is 'Appreciation', which will be our value of October. We will also be following our 'Jigsaw' scheme of work, beginning with the unit 'Being Me in My World'. We will be discussing our goals and aspirations for the year ahead in addition to recognising the necessary steps to reach our targets.

In P.E., the children will be building on their dance skills for their indoor lessons with a focus on the 'Haka'. For their outdoor lessons, the children will be focusing on various invasion games, building their teamwork skills along the way.

In Computing, we will begin by looking at the important topic of 'Online Safety'. The children learn about this year on year and gain a deeper understanding of the importance of staying safe online. After, we will move on to our coding unit, where the children will continue to develop their block-based coding skills using 2Code on Purple Mash.

In History, we will be learning about the Ancient Maya. We will seek to understand the importance of this ancient civilization, place them in time and learn about many aspects of their life. This will link really closely to our Geography unit.

In Geography, we will be learning all about Mexico! We will seek to locate it; understand what life is like for people in various places in Mexico; understand the importance of cocoa farming to Mexico; understand what physical features Mexico has & compare its climate with ours.

Homework

Homework is usually set on a Monday and due back the following Monday. If homework is not completed, children will be invited to attend homework club on a Tuesday break time to ensure that all tasks are completed regularly.

A brief summary of each weekly task sent out via Marvellous Me. Homework will usually be set either on Google Classroom or My Maths. Paper copies will also be available for those children who request it.

The first piece of homework will be set the week commencing 11th September and will be a MyMaths task.

Children should also be reading at home regularly and recording this in their Home/School Link books at least three times per week. Home/School Link books will be collected on a Wednesday each week to ensure children are reading regularly at home.

Physical Education

P.E. and Games in Year 6 will take place with Mr Smyth and Mr Neal this year.

Rundell Class	Tuesday and Thursday
Elphinstone Class	Thursday
Paver class	Tuesday and Thursday

Please ensure that your child comes to school on the days that they have P.E. wearing their full Priory Rise P.E. kit, including black plimsolls or black trainers. Children with earrings must be able to either take them out for their P.E. lessons or have micropore tape kept in their P.E. kit to cover their ears. As the weather becomes cooler, please ensure that your child has the appropriate warm outdoor P.E. kit.

Residential Visit: June 2024

We have made a provisional booking for the Year 6 children to visit the Peak District from the 18th – 21st June 2024. A letter detailing the overview of the visit and outlining the cost and suggested payment plan will be out this week.



Library



Rundell Class	Friday
Elphinstone Class	Friday
Paver Class	Friday

Children in each Year 6 class will be able to visit the library each week. Please encourage your child to remember their library book on the relevant day to ensure that these can be changed regularly. If children are 'free readers', they will be able to select two books from the library each week. All other children will select one book from the school library.

Supporting your child at home

In addition to weekly homework being completed to a high standard, there are many other ways to support your child at home:

- ensuring that children read regularly;
- ensuring times tables are practised frequently;
- learning words from the Year 5/6 Spelling list (available on our school website);
- accessing tasks on My Maths (all homework tasks are always available on MyMaths, they do not need to be set by a teacher. Just make sure your child selects 'practice for fun');
- a regular use of Times Tables Rockstars.



Snacks and food from home



Just a quick reminder that any break time snacks and packed lunches should be nut free.

We are a nut-free school and it is really important that we all follow this guideline to ensure everyone is kept safe.

Thank-you for your support with this.

Uniform

We expect Year 6 look to look extremely smart in their school uniform as role models for the other year groups. To prevent items going missing, please ensure that all items of your child's school uniform and equipment is clearly named.

Thank-you in advance for this!

Children should be wearing black school shoes as part of their uniform, not black trainers.

Please also be reminded nail varnish is not permitted in school and long hair should be tied up for P.E. lessons.

Communication

If you have a message for your child's class teacher, please record this in your child's Home/School link book. Alternatively, you can email the Year 6 teaching team on the following email address:

year6@priorityrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk

All of the Year 6 teachers are able to access this email address and will respond as soon as they are able to.

Staff in Year Six

Mrs Shannon Willison – Elphinstone Class Teacher and Year 6 Leader

Miss Leigh Kent – Rundell Class Teacher

Mrs Hannah Jank – Paver Class Teacher (O.6)

Mrs Alice Goode – Paver Class teacher (O.5)

Mrs Cath Dobson – Deputy Head

Mrs Vickie Snell – Specialist Maths Teacher

Mrs Rebecca Bond – Teaching Assistant

Mrs Tracy Osborn – Teaching Assistant

Mrs Lydia Whelan – 1:1 Teaching Assistant

Ms Lucy Whitter – 1:1 Teaching Assistant

Book recommendations:



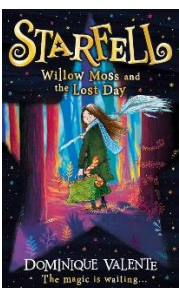
Mrs Willison – Cogheart by Peter Bunzl

Lily's life is in mortal peril. Her father is missing and now silver-eyed men stalk her through the shadows. What could they want from her? With her friends – Robert, the clockmaker's son, and Malkin, her mechanical fox – Lily is plunged into a murky and menacing world. Too soon Lily realizes that those she holds dear may be the very ones to break her heart... This book is the first in the series and is also in Elphinstone's book corner! 😊



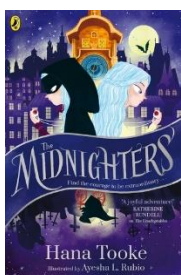
Mrs Dobson – Time Riders by Alex Scarrow

Over the summer break I read a smashing book called 'Time Riders'. It is about a trio of children who are able to travel backwards and forwards through time. It absolutely gripped me! It came recommended from a bookshop owner as a book that boys who read confidently would especially love – I think girls and boys would equally love this book. If you enjoy adventure and being kept on the edge of your seat, you will love this. And there are 7 books in the series. I'm now on book 2!



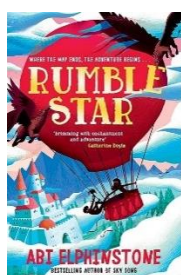
Mrs Jank – Starfell: Willow Moss and the Lost Day by Dominique Valente

Willow Moss, the youngest and least powerful sister in a family of witches, has a magical ability for finding lost things – like keys, or socks, or wooden teeth. Useful, but not exactly *exciting*. . . Then the most powerful witch in the world of Starfell turns up at Willow's door and asks for her help. A whole day – last Tuesday to be precise – has gone missing. Completely. And, without it, the whole universe could unravel.



Miss Kent – The Midnighters by Hana Tooke

Ema Vašková has always felt different. In a family of famous scientists, there's not much room for superstition or omens – but they seem to follow Ema wherever she goes. It doesn't help that she appears to predict events before they happen, and has a peculiar fear of shadows . . . I loved this story! It is the perfect combination of adventure, mystery, secret societies and it was set in Prague – one of my favourite cities! I loved the main characters and I could not put it down.



Mrs Goode – Rumblestar by Abi Elphinstone

The first instalment of the rollicking Unmapped Chronocales! Eleven-year-old Casper Tock hates risks, is allergic to adventures and shudders at the thought of unpredictable events. So, it comes as a nasty shock to him when he accidentally stumbles into Rumblestar, an Unmapped Kingdom full of magical beasts.

Thank you for reading!