



# St Mary's C of E Primary School

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## Year 6 Half Term Curriculum Plan - Home Learning Letter

Autumn 1 – September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to wish all of the children a very warm welcome back to school and into Year 6.

We hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

Please refer to the table below, for a brief overview of the learning experiences that the children will have in each subject, during this half term.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
English	Our English focus text this half term will be 'Friend or Foe' by Michael Morpurgo, and this will run alongside our history unit, based around World War 2. The children will explore and unpick the text, and use it to support their own writing. During the half term, the children will write letters as evacuees, create diary entries and role play key parts of the text. The children will look at direct speech and also, the features of balanced arguments. Some key grammar areas that we will be focusing on are: descriptive vocabulary, coordinating conjunctions, active and passive voice, determiners and prepositional phrases.
Reading	During our whole class and group reading sessions, we will be thinking about our Reciprocal Reading strategies: predicting, questioning, clarifying and summarising. The children will complete weekly written comprehension activities and continue to use the Accelerated Reader scheme with online quizzes, for independent reading sessions.
Maths	In maths this half term, we will be consolidating and extending our knowledge of place value; reading, writing and comparing numbers with up to 8 digits. We will be rounding integers and looking at negative numbers. Later in the half term, we will be learning about common factors and multiples; prime, square and cube numbers; multiplication, division and order of operations. The children will also have regular Arithmetic sessions.
Science	Our Science unit this term will be 'The Nature Library', which involves learning about the classification of living organisms. These sessions will be led by Mrs Richardson, usually on a Monday afternoon. The children will investigate the features of different plants, animals and micro-organisms and will be encouraged to use a range of scientific vocabulary. The children will have opportunities to develop their skills of observation, and certain tasks will require them to represent information and data in a range of ways, including creating their own classification keys.
Computing	We will start the autumn term by recapping and consolidating our knowledge about the importance of online safety. The children will discuss and explore their own digital footprints and think about the effects of 'screen time'. Later in the half term, we will move on to look at spreadsheets. The children will use and consolidate their current knowledge, modelling real life simulations and exploring probability.
History	Mrs Williams will be leading our Year 6 topic work this year, beginning with a World War II history unit. In this unit, the children will investigate why Britain went to war in 1939, find out about the Battle of Britain and consider what different sources tell us about the Blitz. The children will learn about evacuation and will have the opportunity to go on a fascinating day trip to The Lincolnsfield Centre, to experience what life may have been like for some children during war times.

	More information will be shared about this at the beginning of term.
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<b>PHSCE</b>	We start autumn one with a PHSCE Jigsaw unit entitled 'Being me in my world'. The children will think about and discuss the year ahead, consider their role as a global citizen and explore the terms 'learning charter' and 'consequences'. As part of our PSHCE sessions, we will also look at the school Golden Rules, Year 6 responsibilities and the British Values. Alongside our Jigsaw unit, the children will be completing an 'Ignite Wellbeing Programme' this term. The programme involves six short sessions based around the following topics: the mind and how it directs us through life; our innate 'superhero' wellbeing qualities; insecurity & self-judgement; coping with exams, pressure and anxieties; the relationship between feelings, thoughts & behaviours.
<b>Art</b>	In our art lessons, Year 6 will start the year by looking at layered art. We will begin by recapping our understanding of visual notes, create a 'portrait club', think about what layered art is, how it can be created and find out about a range of inspirational artists and how their work is inspired. We will complete the unit by creating our own layered art portraits, using a range of media.
<b>RE</b>	During our religious education sessions, we will be looking at the topic entitled 'Creation and Science: conflicting or complementary?' By the end of the half term the children will be very familiar with Psalm 8, be able to identify the type of text and its purpose. We will think about what Psalm 8 has to say about the idea of God as creator and the place of humans in creation. We will explore why and how some Christians find science and faith compatible. We will think deeper about the responsibilities that humans have for Earth and how well humans are responding to this responsibility, taking into account religious and non-religious viewpoints.
<b>Music</b>	This half term, Year 6 will be looking at music and technology using Charanga Music and thinking about the question 'How does music bring us together?' This unit celebrates a wide range of musical styles. The children will be listening to, singing, playing, composing and performing music. Three focus songs of the unit are: Do what you want to, It's all about love and Sunshine on a rainy day.

### Home Learning

Home learning will usually be set via Google Classroom and will usually consist of a literacy task, maths task and a set of weekly spellings to learn. Home-learning will be set on a **Friday** and needs to be completed and turned in by **the following Wednesday**. Spelling tests will take place on Friday mornings. In addition to these home learning tasks, we recommend that children also engage with TT Rockstars on a regular basis. Regular practise of timetable and division facts up to x12 is essential. As we mentioned last academic year, children may also receive home-learning via MyMaths. Please let a member of the Year 6 team know, if you need any help accessing any of these platforms.

### Reading

One of the most important ways in which you can support your child's learning at home, is to ensure that they engage with 10-15 minutes reading every day. It is really helpful if you can take some time to read with your child and discuss what they have read. Whilst reading, it would be great if you could encourage your child to make **predictions** and **ask questions** about the text. Try to help them identify unfamiliar words and **clarify** meaning, and encourage them to **summarise** a paragraph or page that they have just read. These strategies will help to support their developing comprehension skills.

### P.E.

We will be having a coach-led PE session on **Friday** afternoons. The class will also have a teacher-led PE session on **Thursday** afternoons. Year 6 children will need to **come in to school wearing their PE kit every Thursday and Friday** (unless otherwise notified). Please ensure all long hair is tied back.

### What will my child need in school?

- **Named** school jumper/cardigan/water-proof coat
- **Named** water bottle (water fountains are not in use) children can refill bottles in school
- Children can bring in a **small** bag to carry packed lunches / school resources
- Your child will need a pencil case **containing: pencil, handwriting pen, small ruler, eraser, sharpener (one that holds sharpenings), colouring pencils and a small glue stick**
- Small packet of tissues. **We would also welcome any donations of larger tissue boxes for the classroom**

We are very much looking forward to working with you over the course of the next academic year.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact the class team via the School Office email or leave a message / note with the senior member of staff on gate duty in the morning.

*The Year 6 Class Team*

*Mrs Jennifer Harris, Mrs Lucy Richardson, Miss Lindsey Salter and Mrs Michelle Williams.*