

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Year 6 – O’Keeffe - Autumn Newsletter

8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school for another exciting year. We hope you have all had an enjoyable, relaxing summer holiday. Here is an outline of what Year 6 (O’Keeffe) will be covering this term; it’s going to be a busy one!!

Cross-curricular:

In History we will be researching the question: ‘Why did Britain once rule the largest empire the world has ever seen?’ In Geography: ‘Who are National Parks for??’ In Science we will investigate light and how it travels. For D & T we will be studying Chinese inventions. In Art, we will be studying our class artist, Georgia O’Keeffe and creating artwork in her style. In French, we will be looking at French Grammar and L’Ecole.

English:

This term in Year 6 the children will start by looking at how to portray characters in their writing using Talk for Writing techniques which they are now experienced in. Our class novel will be Holes by Louis Sachar which we are sure they will enjoy. Reading fluency and comprehension will be a major focus throughout the year and we will have structured lessons which aim to enhance comprehension and inference skills as well as the ability to assimilate and summarise information given. Grammar continues to be very important but mostly this will be taught alongside our English units so that it gives purpose to the grammar terms we need to learn.

Spellings are important from the start – we will focus on spelling patterns and word meanings and develop our vocabulary with the ‘Word of the Day’. Weekly, children will have a list of words related to a particular spelling pattern and they will need to practise these at home ready for a spelling test on a Wednesday. Please encourage your child to learn, practise and understand these spellings at home.

Reading

Please ensure your child has time to read at home and is also read to – it is important for children to learn from adults and their reading style, as it is for parents to hear the child’s fluency. At this time, you can also ensure they have thoroughly understood what they have read. Reading is integral to helping develop their creativity, use of vocabulary and writing techniques which they can then use in their own writing. Please encourage your children to read a broad range of books and to try something new.

Maths:

These are some of the topics we will be covering this term:

- Place value – Comparing and ordering numbers, Factors, Rounding, Prime, Cube and Square numbers.
- The four number operations
- Fractions
- Geometry

It is most important that the children continue to practise their times tables and to learn the key mental skills that are fundamental to their understanding of Maths. Of course, these will be taught and practised

regularly in the Maths lessons but please encourage your child to learn and practise them at home. Times tables is important as a foundation for all Maths, and we will be continuing with Times Tables Rockstars which children can access at home as well as at school. For homework, we will be setting tasks in a CGP book (provided by school) to be completed weekly in line with what we have been learning at school.

PE:

For the first half of term these will take place on a Monday (outside) and Wednesday (Basketball). We will also continue to take part in the Daily Mile. On these days, please ensure your child is wearing the following:

- Blue t-shirt (plain or with a Westfield logo)
- Black shorts
- Black bottoms (plain joggers or leggings)
- Blue jumper (Westfield hoodie, Westfield school jumper or cardigan)
- Trainers

There should not be any other coloured items being worn. Please also ensure that your child is not wearing any branded items with large logos on them. Thank you.

Home learning:

Weekly: Spellings set on a FRIDAY and tested on a WEDNESDAY, Times table practice independently.

To prepare Year 6 for secondary, Year 6 will receive a Maths and English task on a FRIDAY, to be handed in on a WEDNESDAY, completed in CGP books supplied by school.

Half-termly: To support learning across all subjects, each half term there will be a list of optional suggested activities that the children can complete at home. These activities will focus on supporting the learning in school that half term and will focus on hands on activities, family orientated tasks and independent learning opportunities.

Personal belongings and safety:

Please ensure your child understands the importance of road safety and remind them to use the crossings and to have their phones in their bags or pockets when walking to and from school. All phones must be handed in during registration. They will be kept securely in the office and returned to the children at the end of the day. ***The school takes no responsibility for any loss or damage to pupil mobile phones.*** They are sent in at your own risk. Please note that if a phone is found in the classroom or in a pupil's possession during the school day it will be confiscated, and a parent will need to collect it from the school office.

Finally, please ensure that your child has a **named water bottle** with them every day.

Many thanks for your continued support. We hope your child will enjoy their learning this term in Year 6.

We are always happy to deal with any questions or concerns you may have at the end of the school day so feel free to find one of us after school or by contacting the school office.

Kind Regards

Mrs Trinder and Mrs Turner

Key Dates for your diary:

Day of Languages – Tuesday 26th September
Tempest Photography (Individual Photos) – Wednesday 27th September
Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 29th September
INSET Day – Friday 6th October
Parents Evening – Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October
Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church (TBC) – Friday 20th October
Half-Term – Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October
Open Learning Morning – Friday 3rd November
Flu Vaccinations – Thursday 9th November
Cool to be Kind Week – Monday 13th to Friday 17th November
Children in Need – Friday 17th November
INSET Day – Friday 24th November
INSET Day – Monday 27th November
EYFS & KS1 Christmas Assembly – Friday 8th December
Child Shows Parent – Tuesday 12th December
RockSteady Concert – Friday 15th December
Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 19th December
Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church (TBC) – Wednesday 20th December