

UK Class Newsletter



September 2025

Welcome to UK class and what will be the children's final year at Risby. The children have already made a positive start to the new year and seem excited and ready for the challenge.

Curriculum.

This year our 'Journey of Discovery' will be centred around the UK. Across the year, we will be finding out about the UK's geographical features; exploring the history of the UK; going mad for a certain wizard and learning about the impact of the Second World War on people in the UK. When planning the learning, we like to be led by the children's interests and/or by current events.

Journey of Discovery

This term we are exploring 'What makes the UK Unique?' We will be travelling back in time to investigate the history of the UK, focusing on:

- How the UK changed from the Stone Age to the Iron Age Britain
- What life was like when Shakespeare was alive
- Other events/stories in history such as 'What happened to the Princes in the Tower?' and the Gunpowder plot

In addition, as geographers, we will be learning about the physical and human features of the UK, including: National Parks, Rivers & Coasts; Lochs and Lakes; Farming; Industry and Trade; Tourism

Maths

This term in Maths, we will be learning to:

- understand the place value of numbers
- Read, write, order, compare and round numbers
- Use negative numbers
- Use written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Identify and use factors, multiples, prime numbers, square numbers and cube numbers

Shakespeare Project

Once again, we will be taking part in the Shakespeare project run by the Theatre Royal. This year the play is 'Much Ado about Nothing' and this story will be the focus of our English work this half term. In our English lessons, we will look at the themes, plot and characters of the story and explore the words and language of Shakespeare. The children will also be involved in a weekly drama workshop in school (led by Emma, from the theatre) where they will start to put together their version of a section of the play.

The project will end with the children coming together with the other school in the project, to perform their version of Much Ado about Nothing on stage at the Theatre Royal on **Tuesday 21st October**. Tickets for the performance will go on sale on **Wednesday 24th September** and can be purchased from the Theatre Royal website [Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds - Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds](https://www.theatreroyalbury.com/). Tickets do sell out quickly, so please put this date in your diary to avoid disappointment.

Reading

Did you know.....

“Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it’s that simple.”

Bali Rai

We are passionate about reading and strive to encourage the children to develop a similar passion and have a real love of reading. At school, we actively encourage the children to read for pleasure by having a range of quality books available in the classroom for children to borrow; sharing book recommendations; talking about books, reading books to the children during ‘Snack & Story’ time and giving children the opportunity to read during the week. Your support in encouraging them to read at home will, as the quote says, enable them to be successful and achieve.

PE

This half term we will be having PE on Tuesdays, any changes will be put on Class DOJO. Children should come to school in their PE kit and watches and earrings **must be removed** for all PE lessons. As a reminder, PE kit should consist of:

- black shorts/jogging bottoms/sports leggings
- plain white T-shirt/green Risby PE T-shirt
- plain round neck sweatshirt (for health & safety reasons **no hoodies or zipped tops**)
- trainers.

Home Learning Expectations

Reading

The expectation is that children will **read at home daily**. This can be reading to you, reading with a younger sibling or quiet reading on their own. The children should record their reading, along with a comment/prediction about what they have read in their reading diary, this enables us to see what they are reading, how they are getting on with their books and their level of understanding. **Please can we ask that an adult sign their reading record once a week.**

Spelling Practice

In the next week or so, children will be bringing home a spelling booklet to practise the KS2 Statutory Spellings, which are the tricky words that children (and some adults!) need to work hard to learn because they don’t conform to usual spelling rules or patterns. We will have a set of 6 focus words each fortnight for the children to practise and school and home. I would advise that the children practise these spelling ‘little and often’, for example 3 times a week for about 10 mins.

Maths

The children need to continue to practise their times tables, so much of the maths curriculum in Y6 assumes that the children have excellent recall of their times tables, so any support you can give them in learning the facts off by heart will be beneficial. A reminder of their log on details for Times Rock Stars will be put in their reading diary.

Other areas which the children can practise at home include: learning to tell the time (analogue and digital and calculating with time); practising written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; practical maths e.g cooking, baking, using money.

General Housekeeping Bits & Pieces...

Water Bottles

Research shows that keeping hydrated helps with concentration, so please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school each day filled with water only: squash, juice, smoothies and fizzy drinks are not permitted. We store water bottles in a box on tables so you can access them whilst you are working. The boxes are able to store 6 water bottles in them, for that reason we ask that you bring a water bottle and not a travel cup.

Class Dojo

Keep up to date with what we are doing in class and any last minute messages through Class Dojo.

Please be aware that we don't check DOJO for messages and we are unable to reply to any messages sent.

Smart Watches/Fitbits/Phones

For safeguarding reasons, children should not bring to school any smart device e.g phones or watches that can send/receive messages; has internet-enabling features or can take photos.

Promoting Independence

In Year 6, we encourage the children to become more independent and responsible for themselves and their learning, ahead of moving to secondary school. You can support this at home by encouraging them to pack their own bags and ensuring they have everything they need for the day at school e.g reading diary, water bottle etc. In Y6, with your permission, we allow the children to leave the school independently at the end of the day. I have attached the 'End of School Pick up Arrangements' form in case you haven't yet completed it. Please indicate on the form what the pick-up arrangements will be for your child at the end of the day. Until we receive the form, your child will need to be collected from the field (near the PE shed). If these arrangements change for any reason or someone other than yourself is collecting your child, please let the office know.

Communication

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or their time in school please do get in touch. You can catch us at the end of the day after the children have all been dismissed or leave a message via the school office.

Key Dates

Wednesday 24th September: Tickets on sale for children's performance of Much Ado About Nothing

Mr O'Regan (Kings Edwards Headteacher) to visit and talk to Y6

Thursday 26th September: Parent Meeting re. behaviour policy 2pm/6pm

Wednesday 1st October: Photographs

Friday 3rd October: 9:30am Harvest Festival at St Giles

Monday 20th October: Parent Consultations (Mrs Jones)

Tuesday 22nd October: Children's Performance of Twelfth Night at the Theatre Royal

Thursday 23rd October: Parent Consultations (Mr Marwood)

Friday 24th October: PTA Halloween Disoc

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October: Half Term

Friday 31st October: Deadline for applying for a secondary school place

Monday 17th November: Join our Journey workshop at 2:30pm

Monday 15th December: Year 4, 5,6 Christmas Play 2pm

Tuesday 16th December: Year 4,5,6 Christmas Play 6pm

Wednesday 17th December: Risby Christmas Day (craft activities)

Friday 19th December: 9:30am Christmas Service at St. Giles

Last Day of Term

It looks like it will be a busy term.

Best Wishes,

Year 6 Teaching Team

Mrs Adele Jones

Mrs Hazel Smith

Miss Shannon Boast

Mr Andrew Marwood

Mrs Emma Curwen

End of the Day Pick-Up Arrangements

Name of child _____

I give permission for my child to walk home independently.

I give permission for my child to meet me on the playground / younger siblings classroom.

I give permission for my child to meet me at

I will continue to collect my child from outside the classroom.

Signed _____

