

UK Class Newsletter

January 2026

We had an amazing first term in Year 6 and it certainly seemed to whizz by with lots of memorable experiences: Hilltop; performing Much Ado about Nothing at the Theatre Royal; Join our Journey session and an outstanding performance of Bethlehem the Musical. Hopefully, the children are rested and ready to challenge themselves in the term ahead. Read on to find out what we will be learning about this term, how you can support your child at home & home learning expectations, admin bits and pieces and key dates for this term.

Maths

This term in Maths, we will be focusing on:

- Understanding, using and calculating with decimals
- Multiplying & Dividing fractions
- Ratio and Proportion
- Percentages
- Algebra
- Measure – perimeter, area and volume

English

This term we will complete three writing units focusing on different genres in writing:

- Non-Fiction, where we be learning and using features of a non-chronological report, such as selecting appropriate vocabulary, different sentence structures, adverbials and range of punctuation.
- Narrative, where we be writing effective sentences for a story considering the impact our writing has on the reader.

Journey of Discovery: Blitzed Brits

This term we will be travelling back in time to 1939 to experience what it was like to live through the Second World War. The class will be immersed in the history of the era, and hopefully have as much fun learning about this fascinating period of history as we will teaching about it.

Our learning will focus on:

- The beginning of the War
- The Battle of Britain
- Dunkirk
- Evacuation
- The Blitz
- Life on the Home Front
- End of the War

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. In Year 6, reading is approached through ‘Book Talk’ sessions, where children will be taught skills in vocabulary, inference, making predictions, explaining their thoughts, retrieving information from the text and summarising. This term we will be reading *Once by Morris Gleitzman*, I know how keen some of the children are to get copies of the books we read in class **BUT** please, please can we ask that the children don’t read this book at home. We really want the children to experience this powerful story together as a class and when we have discussions about the story and what might happen next, that there isn’t someone who has already read it. Thank you for your support.

In addition, the children will:

- have opportunities to read for pleasure during the week
- have access to a range of quality books in the classroom
- share book recommendations & talk about books
- listen to stories being read during ‘Snack & Story
- read at home

PE

This term we will have PE on a Tuesday and Friday

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
- watches and earrings **must be removed** for all PE lessons.

Lessons on a Tuesday may take place outside so we would advise that on a cold day, the children wear base layers to keep warm. On a Friday, PE is indoors so base layers will not be needed.

Home Learning Expectations

Next year, the children will see an increase in the amount of homework they are given during the week. As part of the transition to secondary school, it is important that the children start to develop good homework habits now, so it is not so much of a shock! Please support your child to plan when they will complete homework tasks throughout the week and check they have completed any tasks set.

Homework expectations are:

- **Reading** –All children are expected to read at home **every day for 10-15 mins**. Please remind your child to fill in their reading records stating what they have read and a comment about the book (e.g describing what has just happened, predicting what will happen next, thoughts about the story), this enables us to see what they are reading, how they are getting on with their books and their level of understanding. Reading records **must** be in school every day.

Parents/Carers – please talk to your child about what they are reading and **sign the reading record once a week.**

- **Spelling Practice** – Children have brought home the next 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. There will be a set of 6 'focus' words for the children to practise every 2 weeks. In the back of the booklet is a grid with ideas of ways to practise spellings.
- **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 help them with the areas of maths we have coming up this term. In addition, they need to practise written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplying by 2-digits and dividing by 2 digits.

General Housekeeping Bits & Pieces...

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child brings a named water bottle to school each day filled with water only: squash, juice, smoothies and fizzy drinks are not permitted.

Dojo

Please check Class DOJO regularly, as we use it to communicate any last minute messages or changes to PE etc and you can keep up to date with what we are doing in class. Please be aware that we don't check DOJO for messages and we are unable to reply to any messages sent. If you need to pass on a message please catch us at the classroom door in the morning, at pick-up or leave a message by phoning or emailing the office.

Smart Watches/Fitbits/Phones

As a reminder we have a 'No Phones' policy. 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

Ahead of moving to secondary school, we encourage the children to become more independent and responsible for themselves and their learning. 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.

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 briefly in the morning, speak to us at the end of the day after the children have all been dismissed or leave a message via the school office for us to contact you.

Key Dates

Tuesday 10th February: Parent Consultations with Mrs Jones

Thursday 12th February: Parent Consultations with Mr Marwood

Thursday 12th February: RE Day

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February: Half Term

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day (further details to follow)

Wednesday 12th March: Class Visit to Gressenhall Museum (further details to follow)

Wednesday 25th March: Easter Service at St.Giles 9:15am

Thursday 26th March: RE Day

Friday 27th March: Last day of Term

Look ahead to the Summer Term

Monday 13th April: First day of Summer Term

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May: SATs week

Tuesday 19th May: Class visit to Warner Brothers Studios: The Making of Harry Potter (further details to follow).

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and thank you for your on-going support.

Year 6 Teaching Team

Mrs Adele Jones

Mr Andrew Marwood

Mrs Hazel Smith

Mrs Emma Curwen