

Welcome to Year 6

2020-2021

Mrs Turner and
Mrs Collett

Mrs Clarke



Back to Normal(ish!!)

- The children have all settled in and have quickly adapted to the new routines
- Hand sanitiser is the new glue stick! But we still need them to have a glue stick! Please make sure your child has a well-stocked pencil case – especially handwriting pens. Don't forget pens and glue both run out so please check regularly and replenish.
- Please, please make sure that all sweat-shirts, coats and losable items are clearly named.
- Children no longer have their own trays in which to hide interesting items – we have told them that they should not be bringing any toys or other non-essential items into school.

Post-Lockdown Observations

It is very evident that lots of the children have worked hard on maintaining their education through Lockdown and we are very grateful for your support in keeping their learning going.

There is lots of enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn in our classrooms, which is great!

We appreciate that coming back into the formal learning environment after so long away from it, must have been quite a challenge for the children and we have observed that the levels of concentration in lessons are not what we would normally expect at the start of Year 6. This is something that we need to work on to ensure that learning can happen. We are currently having to refer to the code of conduct (this is available on the school website) to remind the children about how to take responsibility for making sure the learning environment is a good one. Hopefully, as time goes on the children will develop better concentration and will need less reminders.

Year 6 Expectations

As it is the final year in primary school, we have to raise the bar for the children so that they are well-prepared for the transition to secondary school.

Ways in which we do this:

The children all have monitor jobs in the classrooms.

There is the expectation that they will complete homework tasks on time and be responsible for bringing them in on the correct days. (See Homework Policy email from the Office)

We encourage the children to take responsibility for their possessions and equipment.

We will be working on resilience – encouraging the children to develop their listening and attention during lessons.

We will be promoting independence in their learning and in the way they approach challenges.

What we expect from the children:

That they will focus during lessons and not distract themselves or others from their learning.

That they follow the school's code of conduct.

That they treat others the way that they would like to be treated.

That they always try their hardest to produce their best work and don't give up – even when it is difficult.

As their teachers, we will work our hardest to fill any gaps in their learning, teach them the Year 6 curriculum, prepare them for the summer tests and provide a safe and happy learning environment.

Reading at home is NOT optional!

In Year 6, the teachers check the reading diaries of all children once a week and expect to see that they have read AT LEAST 3 x at home during that week. This is a homework requirement (as stated in the Homework policy).

Reading is the key to unlocking all the other areas of the curriculum. Children who read regularly will find work across all subjects easier to access and will consequently achieve their best potential.

Children who read for pleasure will have greater levels of empathy, understanding of the world around them, of themselves and others.

We need you to encourage your children to read at home. Even if your child is a 'good' reader, they still need to read to develop their vocabulary and comprehension.

If your child is a reluctant reader, we would suggest that you share the reading with them to make it less of an onerous task. Also, magazines, newspapers and information books are just as beneficial.

Children of this age do still enjoy being read to (believe us...you should see their rapt expressions during story-time at school!) or listening to an audio-book.

Timetable

We are following a special 'Recovery' post-Lockdown curriculum, as advised by the government.

This takes the form of:

A reduced range of subjects to begin with- the focus being on English, Maths and PSHE.

Focused SPaG lessons every day.

At least four sessions of class Guided Reading per week.

We are also doing:

PE once a week

Science – one afternoon per week

Topic - A Child's War (covers History, Art, D.T, Geography)

German/R.E.

	8.30	8.50	10.10	10.25	10:55	11.55-12:45	13:30	14:45
Mon	Maths Starter	Maths	B	SPaG	English	L	Guided Reading	PSHE
Tues	Maths Starter	Maths	R	SPaG	English	U	Guided Reading	Science
Weds	Maths Starter	Maths	F	SPaG	English	N	Games (coaches) German/RE	Games (coaches) German/RE
Thurs	Maths Starter	Maths	A	SPaG	English	C	Guided Reading	Topic teaching
Fri	Maths Starter	Maths	K	Spelling	English	H	Guided Reading	Topic follow up Golden Time

How will we help your child?

- We will set homework regularly- tables, spellings, Spag, maths, reading
- Will set work appropriate to your child's ability and challenge every child to aim high and reach their potential.
- Set high expectations in terms of both academic work (presentation and content) and behaviour.
- Ensure your child is in a caring environment, where they feel safe, happy and keen to learn!

How can you help your child?

- Sign diaries each week
- Listen to children read 3x per week – or set aside a time each day when your child reads independently at home.
- Help children to access homework-let us know if there are any problems accessing homework online.
- Encourage a high standard of presentation.
- Let us know if there is something going on at home which may be affecting the child at school
- Make sure all kit and uniform is named
- Help children to learn tables and spellings

Your questions answered

- Will SATs go ahead as normal this year? If so when?

As it stands, the SATs are due to carry on as normal for a week in May. We will let you know if the government changes this at any point.

- Will music lessons resume?

Music lessons have started again and the outside professionals are taking the necessary safety precautions to be able to come into school.

- Will choir and orchestra resume? Possibly socially distanced inside or outside?

Currently, they will not be continuing as we cannot mix year groups.

- Will class or year bubble trips be permitted since the gathering is for educational purposes?

This will depend on the restrictions placed on us by the government and whether the companies involved can cater to the new restrictions. We will keep you as informed as possible whenever things change.

- Could the year 6 play become a film if need be?

We would love to be able to do the production this year and will start to think of the different options we have to be able to do this. Under the current guidelines, we believe that filming it may be possible.

Your questions answered

- Can the school council meet socially distanced?

Not at the moment due to being unable to mix year groups.

- Will JLT roles be adapted to suit their smaller year group horizons?

This is something that we are struggling with as a Year 6 team. It is clear that we cannot have a traditional JLT as the roles and responsibilities do not exist anymore due to social distancing. As it stands, we believe that we can have a Head Boy and Girl. Until the restrictions are lifted, there are no other roles available to us. Therefore, all of the children have a responsibility in class and we are trying to promote and make sure children's efforts are recognised in this respect.

-In the event of the need for the entire class to self-isolate, will there be some live teaching provision on google classroom or Zoom?

We will not be doing live teaching but the children will have access to home learning on Seesaw where their teacher will be contactable throughout the school day. Also, the children will have a zoom call with their teacher, in a group, once a week which we will give as much notice for as we can.

Celebrating Success

In Year 6, we foster a positive environment to help the children to recognise the benefits of working hard and making good choices. We do this through:

- House points
- Raffle Tickets with a Lucky Dip at the end of the week
- Head Teacher's Award
- WOW work
- Verbal and written praise
- 'R' leaves and stickers
- Sharing outstanding work with the class
- Star of the Day
- Work displayed around the school
- Golden Time
- Being chosen to have one of our special playtime balls

Seesaw

The children have received their log ins for Seesaw this week. As a class, we have looked at how to use it together and they have been all given the chance to ask questions about how to use it etc.

For the foreseeable future (hopefully!), we will be uploading the homework onto there to limit the amount of items that we are sending home. So, each week the children will have access to the spellings, SPAG homework and Maths homework.

We are happy for the children to print off the work at home and bring it in to school, when complete. Another way of completing the homework is to do it straight onto Seesaw or take a picture of the completed work and upload that onto Seesaw as a response.

We understand that this isn't always an option for all of you so we will still have access to hard copies at school.

In the event of a class self-isolating or a local lockdown, we will be using Seesaw for our remote learning. Each day, there will be activities for the children to complete (tailored for home learning) and we will be contactable during normal school hours to give feedback. If there is a lockdown or we are isolating for a significant amount of time, each child will be part of a group zoom call with their teacher which we will give as much notice as we can for.

Thank you!

We really do appreciate your support and everything you do to help your children with their education.