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An Oxford Diocesan  
School

Headteacher

Mrs J Barnett BA (QTS)

11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent,

We hope you had a wonderful summer break and are delighted to welcome you back to the new academic year. This year promises to be a journey filled with learning, growth, and wonderful experiences. This letter includes information about the curriculum areas that the children in Year 6 will be covering this term and information that you will require.

We have many exciting topics in Year 6 and this term there will be an overarching theme of 'A Journey through the Amazon', where we will study the Geography of South America and explore the historical culture of the Maya Civilisation.

Our timetable this term will have an English and Mathematics focus during the morning, as in previous years, with foundation subjects taking place during our afternoon lessons. In addition, throughout the year your child will take part in curriculum days that enhance their learning experience. This term Year 6 will be involved in a Maya civilisation day.

In **English**, we will begin by continuing to develop the children's use of a range of sentence structures in order to engage the reader. Our narrative unit for the Autumn Term will revolve around the text '*The Explorer*' by Katherine Rundell, where we will develop the children's characterisation and storytelling skills. In poetry, we will be using '*The Tyger*' by William Blake to create our own poems about rainforest animals. We will also develop our writing skills across the curriculum linked to both our Science and RE topics.

In **Mathematics** we will be working through National Curriculum objectives for Year 6, beginning with a focus on number and place value, moving onto the mental and written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also be extending our knowledge of fractions and how to convert between different units of measure (both metric and imperial).

Other topics we will be studying are:

Science	Living Things and their Habitats, Electricity
History	Maya Civilisation
Geography	The study of South America and the Journey of the Amazon
Computing	Data Handling – Excel Computer Programming - Microbits
Art	Painting – focusing on, and creating work inspired by South American artists
Technology	Electrical Alarm systems – linked to Computing unit
P.E.	Games – Netball and Football Dance and Gymnastics – Matching and Mirroring
R.E.	Are Saints Encouraging Role Models Is 'God became man' a good way to understand the Christmas story?
Music	Learning the Ukulele, 'Happy' – This song will be used as the centre of our learning and to compare to other genres of music previously studied.
French	Les Habitats The use of regular verbs in French
PSHE	Being Me in My World Celebrating Difference



## **Homework**

This year homework will be set and submitted on Seesaw. In Year 6 the children will receive the following homework:

English homework will be set on a Monday and is expected to be returned by Wednesday; Mathematics homework will be set on a Wednesday and is due in on the Friday. When required, Foundation Subject homework will be due in one week from being handed out and may be given out once a half term.

Spellings will also be set on Seesaw and tested in class. These will be given to the children on a Friday with a test the following Thursday.

We have developed our spelling lists to correspond with the spelling rules the children are being taught in their English lessons. Children will be expected to learn all the words for their given list. Any children who find spelling particularly difficult will be given words linked to their phonic phases.

Children will continue working on their Numeracy Passport objectives, which will include weekly times tables tests. They will be expected to practise their passport objectives and times tables regularly at home. The children should use their login for Times Table Rockstars to support their fluency and accuracy in a fun way.

This year, we continue to focus on reading (especially reading for enjoyment) and are looking forward to finding out about what exciting books the children enjoy. Please make sure that the children have a book they are reading at home and can bring to school each day. Continue to listen to your child read daily, as not only will this aid their learning considerably, it will also increase their enjoyment of reading. Discuss the books that they are reading and encourage your child to choose more challenging literature in order to continue their development. We are using paper based reading diaries to record daily reading. It is vital that these are in school every day.

Our carefully selected suggested reads for Year 6 are as follows:

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| 1. Pig Heart Boy by Valerie Blackman              | 7. Holes by Louis Sachar                          |
| 2. Time Travelling with a Hamster by Ross Welford | 8. Once by Moritz Glietzman                       |
| 3. The Arrival by Shaun Tan                       | 9. Where the River Runs Gold by Sita Brahamachari |
| 4. Clockwork by Phillip Pullman                   | 10. A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson          |
| 5. River Boy by Tim Bowler                        | 11. The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson             |
| 6. Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell               | 12. Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead                 |

## **PE and Games**

The children will need a full, named PE kit (T-Shirt, shorts, socks, plimsolls/trainers). Both classes will have Games and PE on Thursday afternoons. Children will be expected to bring in and leave their kits in school for the entire half term. As a reminder, they will be required to wear trainers for outdoor PE.

## **Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**

Personal social and emotional development (PSED) forms a key part of our curriculum each term. Teaching personal development is vital in many ways. It helps children develop a positive sense of themselves, independence, respect for others, social skills, emotional well-being and a positive disposition to learning.

This term your child will be taught about their place in the world and recognising and celebrating differences as part of our PSHE curriculum. They will also be introduced to, and be asked to reflect on, the following key values through our weekly assembly programme: Trust, Love, Dignity, Generosity, Thankfulness, Joy, Peace, Community and Wisdom. In addition, across the Autumn Term, children will learn about the importance of helping others through our involvement with One Can Trust and our Harvest celebrations and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and our Remembrance Service.

In Autumn 2, all children will take place in 'Anti-Bullying week', a week dedicated to sending a clear and positive message that bullying is neither acceptable nor inevitable in our schools and communities. Children are also taught that it is important to tell someone if they are being bullied and how to get help if they find themselves in that position. We also hold our annual, 'Walk To School Week' to help our pupils start to recognise both the health benefits of walking to school and the environmental benefit of having fewer cars on the road.

Pupils in Year 6 will also have the opportunity to develop their self-confidence and public speaking skills this term as they take part in our Christmas Service. We are really looking forward to this special event as we are sure are you. In addition, they will take part in drama-based activities to support the curriculum learning where they will perform in front of small groups or the class.

Finally, across the school, pupils are given the opportunity to perform key roles to both develop their leadership skills and sense of responsibility or teamwork. These responsibilities increase as children progress through the different year groups. In Year 6, pupils take on the following whole school roles:

- School council – as voted for by their peers
- JRSOs
- House Captains
- Sports Leaders
- Peer Mentors

Please keep an eye out for the monthly newsletter as that will provide further details of the above events and also detail additional opportunities that the children at SMAS experience as part of our PSED Curriculum and school vision.

If you ever wish to discuss anything about your child, please make an appointment through the office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Richardson and Mrs Vaidya  
Y6 Class Teachers