



LITTLE KINGSHILL COMBINED SCHOOL
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WHERE LEARNING HAS NO LIMITS

8th September 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year 6! In many respects, this is quite a distinct and significant year but also one which the children will look back on with pride and fondness as they end their primary school phase. This is an exciting time with challenges and opportunities throughout the year, the secondary transfer tests, SATs, Christmas panto, a trip to France and so much more! The children will also enjoy the additional challenges and privileges of being at the top of the school which give the year a unique feel to it. This letter is intended to be a guide to some of the regular class routines in order that you can help support your child through this year in school.

Weekly Timetable

Your child will receive a copy of the current timetable for this term. Mrs. Tapping will be taking the class on both Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, teaching history/ geography, music, R.E. and P.S.H.E. This year Madame Al' Kattan will once again be teaching French and Mr Mullins will continue to take the children for games on a Friday. The children will also have a dance lesson this term on a Wednesday.

Curriculum Topics:

English

- Biographies and autobiographies
- Historical stories
- Parody
- Journalistic writing
- Classic drama – Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'
- Reading and comprehension skills

Maths

- Algebra
- Mental and written methods of addition and subtraction
- Mental and written methods of Multiplication and division
- Angles
- Solids and their nets
- Fractions
- Problem solving using the above operations and methods

Science

- All living things- classification of organisms
- Electricity

Music

Charanga

Computing

- Computer game development- writing and debugging programs
- Multimedia authoring

History

Prehistory- how life in Britain changed through the Stone, Iron and Bronze Ages.

P.E.

- Dance/gymnastics
- Invasion games- football/ hockey/ tag rugby





Design Technology

- Round houses and weaving – link with history topic
- Designing and constructing games for the Christmas Fayre

Art

- People in Action
- Cave paintings – link with history topic

R.E.

- The Natural World
- Pilgrimage

P.S.H.E.

- The Law and Parliament
- Choices in Life

Geography

Map work

Secondary School Transfer Test

As you will be aware, the children will be taking the transfer tests next week. The class will sit two preparation tests on Tuesday 11th September, to ensure they are comfortable with the whole process. These papers will be followed by the actual transfer tests on Thursday 13th September. Of course, you and your child will also be busy visiting potential secondary schools and making decisions for next September. A letter from County to assist with this process has been sent home with your child.

P.E. and Games Lessons

For the autumn term, our first P.E. lesson of the week will be on Wednesday when the focus will be on dance. These sessions will be led by an external sports teacher. Games lessons will take place on a Friday morning with Mr. Mullins where children will require trainers or football boots, particularly when the weather becomes wetter and the field conditions become muddy and slippery. The onset of colder days will also mean that a tracksuit will become a necessary part of their P.E. kit.

Homework

Your child will be receiving regular homework tasks related to the topics being covered in each area of the curriculum. This will help to consolidate what is covered in school and enable parents to become involved and informed on what is happening within the classroom. The Weekly Bulletin sent on a Monday outlines homework for the coming week. Most homework tasks will be set to be completed within two days, allowing children who may have questions regarding the work set to seek assistance while encouraging a degree of routine. In line with government guidance, Year 6 homework tasks should take approximately 2.5 to 3 hours per week. As a guide, the following schedule for homework will be followed as closely as possible to aid continuity:

Monday Spellings. Spelling sentences to be written in the purple homework book and given in on Wednesday. Spellings to be learned for testing on Friday. You may wish to help your child follow a Look-Cover-Write-Check method for learning these words. A retest will be required for a score below 7/10 in the weekly test.

Tuesday Science

Wednesday History or Geography

Thursday Maths

Friday English.



Instances where homework is late will be recorded. If three pieces of work are late during a half term period, the child will lose a break time in school. It is expected that homework is completed to the high standard that is required in lessons. If this is not achieved, the child may be asked to redo the task in their own time in school.

In addition to given homework tasks, please remember to encourage your child to read regularly at home. Children will also have access to books from the classroom and library. Towards the end of the year, children will be presented with several of their homework tasks together at the beginning of the week in order to help them plan and organise their work; an important element of their secondary careers.

School Monitors

An important part of life in year 6 is the responsibility that comes with being monitors for a range of tasks throughout the school. These range from paper recycling, setting up assemblies, duties in the school office and helping with the Reception and Key Stage 1 children. Monitor duties will have been allocated already for this term and tasks will be changed half-terminally in order to give opportunities to all the children. Year 6 quickly learn that they are always turned to whenever a job needs doing throughout the school and they learn to rise to the challenge!

Equipment

Although we do provide equipment in school, it is obviously more convenient for children to have their own basics in a small pencil case, which should fit easily into their tray. This should include items such as writing pens (Berol or cartridge pens are preferred, but not biros), writing and colouring pencils, eraser, glue stick, sharpener and ruler (preferably 30cm). For maths, a protractor and calculator would also be useful additions.

Please ensure that all equipment is clearly named, with your child's full name. It is important for the children to become more independent and self-reliant, therefore we will not be phoning parents to bring in any forgotten equipment.

Absences

If, for whatever reason, your child is absent from school, please could you inform the school by telephone before 9:15am on the day of absence and in writing when he/she returns to school. Your assistance in this is greatly appreciated.

Water Bottles

It is very important that your child is sufficiently hydrated during the school day and therefore they may bring a water bottle into the classroom. Please ensure that these have a sports style cap in order to avoid accidental spillages while these are at children's desks. The bottles should also be transparent.



Residential Visit to France

Following last term's parental consultation on the France trip, this is provisionally booked for week commencing 24th June 2019. While this may seem a long way off, it will reach the horizon faster than you think! There is an information meeting for parents on Wednesday 20th September at 6pm where more details will be provided.

Trips

As part of an introduction to Shakespeare, there will be a workshop visit to school by the Young Shakespeare Company on 17th October, followed by the opportunity to go and watch a professional performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Wylyotts Theatre in Potters Bar on November 12th. This project has proved highly successful and enjoyable in previous years as an introduction to the work of the bard. More details to follow but the approximate cost of the trip is £20.

Other Events

13th September, 2.45pm – Meet the Teacher.

20th September Individual/ family photographs.

11th October – Harvest festival, with Y6 parents invited to attend.

19th October – Image Theatre performance of 'Hansel & Gretel' at school.

2nd November – Year 6 Tag Rugby Festival, Holmer Green Senior School.

15th November – performance by the Mance Productions Theatre Company at school: 'Lest We Forget'.

28th November – Carol Service at St. Peter and St. Paul's church, Great Missenden, 6.00 pm.

30th November – Christmas Fayre

Panto!

A key part of this term for year 6 is performing the leading roles in the school pantomime. There will be auditions soon after half term and rehearsals will commence in November. Your help in providing props and costumes will be much appreciated nearer the time! Meanwhile, the dates for the diary are Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th December, both performances starting at 6.30pm.

Parent consultations

Formal Parents' Evenings will be held during the week prior to the October half term (on Tuesday 16th and on Thursday 18th). If you should have any issues to discuss while your child is in year 6, please arrange an appointment through the school office. The most convenient afternoons are Tuesday and Friday.

I look forward to a successful, happy and rewarding year together.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. Barnard