

September 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and welcome to Year 6!

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are as excited as I am about having the children back in school for, what will hopefully be, an exciting year. I know that, as is always the case when returning to school and starting in a new year group, some of your children may have been feeling nervous. I want to reassure you that I have seen lots of smiles, have had some excellent discussions and have been pleased by the positive attitudes to learning displayed so far. I hope that the children have enjoyed their first few days and are now looking forward to the rest of the year too – it's going to be brilliant!

As the children move through the school and become more independent, there are often fewer informal opportunities for teachers to talk to parents/carers at drop off/collection time. I firmly believe that the relationship between teachers and parents/carers is vital in supporting children in the best way possible though and so we are soon holding 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. The year 6 meeting is at 3:15pm on Monday 7th September, in Monarchs' classroom; I hope to see many of you there.

Autumn Term Learning

In **English**, we are beginning the year with a suspenseful, narrative unit of writing based on the picture book, 'Night of the Gargoyles'. During this unit of work, we will be recapping our grammatical knowledge from previous year groups whilst writing a short story, full of mystery and tension, to entertain. After this, we will write to inform. Based upon a wonderful book, 'Planetarium', with stunning artwork from Chris Wormell and informative text by Professor Raman Prinja, we will write non-chronological reports about invented planets. Throughout the rest of the autumn term, we will have opportunities to write to entertain and persuade, with different key texts as stimuli.

In **maths**, we will start with place value: understanding that the value of a digit is determined by its place in a number. This will include the concept of rounding numbers up to 10 million and understanding decimal notation. From there, we will move onto learning mental and formal methods of multiplication and division. As well as this, we will have a large focus on fractions, decimals and percentages this term.

In **science** this term, we will begin by learning about living things and their habitats. During this unit of work, we will learn how to describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences. As well as this, we will complete a unit of work about evolution and inheritance. We will learn to recognise that things have changed over time and how fossils provide information about living things that inhabited Earth millions of years ago. We will recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but find out how and why offspring usually vary. Finally, we will explore how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environments in different ways and how adaptation may lead to evolution.

In **history** this term, we will be studying World War II. The children will learn about how the war began, the role of women in WWII, evacuees, the Holocaust and more. Victory in the Battle of Britain represented a very important (some historians argue *the* most important) turning point in the Second World War, as well as being a moment of decisive change in the long history of the United Kingdom. We will investigate this battle in detail by examining a wide range of sources to help us gain insight into the thinking of the leaders of Nazi Germany and the reasons why air superiority was so critical in winning the war. Learning from this topic will be reinforced with a trip to RAF Hendon, which was used to scramble fighter pilots during the Battle of Britain.

Geography lessons will provide the children with insight into how changing patterns of weather at different locations around the world are impacting on the lives of real people with whom they can relate. Through the experiences of these individuals and communities, children will be able to reflect upon how changes to normal and usual weather conditions can have serious implications. We will find out what global warming is and how action needs to be taken to reduce fossil fuel consumption through the development of renewable sources of energy.

In **French**, we will begin by learning how to use our decoding skills to better understand unknown language. Our first unit will link with our WWII history topic and allow us the opportunity to complete a range of speaking, listening, reading and writing activities. The unit will culminate in writing a letter, in French, in role as a child living during WWII. After half term, we will move on to a unit of work based upon habitats, plants and animals. We will continue to attempt and write longer, more interesting sentences and learn to manipulate language through our increased awareness of phonetic and grammatical structures. During this term, we will benefit from the expert teaching of Mademoiselle Bowie, a languages specialist teacher from St Albans School.

RE lessons this term are focused initially on Humanism and we will explore the question: how do inspirational people impact on how Humanists live today? After half term, our time will be spent investigating whether Christmas celebrations and traditions help Christians to understand who Jesus was and why he was born.

In **computing** this term, the children will learn about communication and collaboration, including how information is shared online and how to communicate responsibly. We will also complete a unit of work based on creating media during which we will find out how to create our own web pages.

In **art**, we will begin with a drawing unit of work entitled 'Expressing Ideas' This focuses on exploring how drawing can be used to express ideas and messages, inspired by a range of street art examples and environmental themes. After half term, we will create expressive sculptures and reflect on artistic decisions in our sculpture and 3D form unit of work. We will learn to represent memories through art, using various materials and techniques.

In **DT**, children will first have opportunities to develop their skills in creating mechanical systems when we make our own automata toys, using cams, followers and axles to create movement. In Autumn 2, children will learn about cooking and nutrition, developing understanding of complementary flavours when producing a healthy meal.

Mr Stevenson-Leigh will teach the children's **PE** session on a Monday morning; they will begin by learning handball. Children will need to wear their PE kit to school on this day and will remain in it all day so will not need uniform to change into. **Swimming** lessons will take place on a Thursday afternoon this term. Please ensure that they have the correct kit for both sessions so that they can successfully participate.

We will be following the Jigsaw scheme of work for Personal, Social and Health Education (**PSHE**). This begins by setting personal goals for the upcoming year, before exploring the topic 'Being Me in My World'. The children will receive weekly awards in assembly related to the skills taught in these lessons.

PPA and Leadership Time

My weekly planning, preparation and assessment time will be covered by Mrs Khalid and Mr Stevenson-Leigh, who will accompany the children swimming and take them to the library on Thursday afternoons. On Monday mornings, I have an hour leadership time, which will also be covered by Mr Stevenson-Leigh, who will teach PE.

Home Learning

Home learning is especially important in Year 6 as it not only helps the children to continue to learn and make progress, but also prepares them for secondary school where home learning expectations will be significantly higher. Home learning will involve completing tasks in maths and English CGP workbooks. Each week, your child will be set one maths and one English task to complete from these. Usually, these will be linked to learning that has taken place in class during the preceding week. You can always find the home learning task for the week on our class page.

Reading is a vital part of home learning and we ask that you continue to ensure that your child reads for at least ten minutes every day. Children in Year 6 may sometimes choose to read independently at home, but their reading record should still be signed by an adult daily. It is also important that you talk to your child about what they have read. On our class page, you will find documents to support these conversations at home as well as a list of recommended tests for Year 6 children that are suitably challenging.

This year, we will continue with our 'Maths Magicians!' initiative which focuses on supporting pupils to learn key mathematical facts that are essential if pupils are to understand more complex concepts. Children across the school will again be expected to work towards knowing and remembering the key facts for their year group, which have been identified on the parent information sheet sent home. Of course, children will be taught these in class, but it is important that they practise these at home too. Please ensure that children practise the relevant facts for 10 minutes each day. There are 12 stages for the children to work through each term, with a quiz each Friday. Successful completion of quizzes will result in prizes being awarded in our weekly celebration assembly.

Optional additional home-learning includes practising times tables and handwriting. Further information and links to relevant websites can be found on our class page. There, you will also find a document that shows the stages of development in mathematical reasoning; it includes questions that you could ask your child at home to help them think more deeply about mathematical problems they may encounter in the real world as well as in their home learning.

SATs

We are firm believers that SATs are only one measure of your child's achievements and progress during their time at primary school, however we also want to ensure that each child reaches their full potential. During the year, some children will be invited to attend booster sessions. These small group sessions aim to target teaching more specifically to children in order to further support them. Letters will be sent home regarding this.

All parents will be invited to a SATs information meeting later in the year. In the meantime, if you wish to support your child further at home, the following websites may be of use:

English: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z4296rd>

Maths: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z4mktcw>

It is going to be a great term with lots of exciting learning opportunities. Please see the school's website for key dates and our class page for regular updates on what is happening in class.

With kind regards,

Miss Abbott

