

# Year 6 Home Learning

## Spring Term 2024

In the Spring term of Year 6, home learning consists of:

- Regular reading (ideally daily)
- Mental Maths practice (as often as possible)
- Projects (half-termly based on topics taught in class)
- Mathematics (some set sessions but more to support children's individual requirements and mental maths practice)
- Weekly 10-minute tests in Reading, Maths and Grammar and Spelling.

### Reading

For Reading in Year 6, we take a broad approach as follows:

- In class, we read a novel to children at the end of most days. We base some of our teaching on these, generally in English, but sometimes these have a link to other topics (such as "Letters from the Lighthouse" that we are reading at the moment. We also read extracts from other novels and other types of text with children during English lessons and across the curriculum.
- In class, we have timetabled "Book Talk" sessions. In Year 6, children have some input into the choice of book they read with their group and some control over the pace that they read it at. Some groups will bring this book home at times and will have agreed a specific page or chapter to read up to. This must then be brought back in to school so that the novel can be discussed and analysed.
- Students are expected to read their own reading book for at least 20 minutes at home each day; many parents suggest this is what their child does just before they go to sleep. Children will also have opportunities most days to read, so need to remember to bring this book into school each day. In Year 6, we don't use a Reading Record, as sometimes this takes away from the enjoyment of reading, but encourage conversations about books. These books don't have to be stories - it is good for children to have a broad diet when reading.
- Please do continue to read to and with your child. However fluent they are in reading, they will benefit hugely from daily reading with an adult. This can be fun and if your child is reluctant to read or finds it difficult, I would encourage you to choose a book that is new to both of you and read it to them, enjoying it alongside them. If you need any ideas of books, please see the suggested reading list on the Year 6 web page which has been designed specifically for children in upper Key Stage 2. If these don't suit, please ask for advice - I love reading and am very happy to recommend books!

### Spelling

This term we will have weekly spelling sessions which focus on specific words and patterns. In addition, when children's work is marked, certain spellings are highlighted. This is done on an individual basis, and children write the correct spelling of these words on cards that stay in school and on bookmarks that they should bring home. Bookmarks do tend to get lost, but these words can always be re-written on to a new bookmark, which are freely available. Please practise these words with your child, as they fit their attainment level when they are writing. At regular intervals, children will test each other on their personal spelling words and can cross off those they spell correctly, leaving room for others!

The National Curriculum has lists of spellings for Year 3/4 and Year 5/6, which can be found on the Year 6 page of the website. If you want more of a challenge for your child, please do use these.

## Maths

We support the emphasis in the new National Curriculum for Maths that pupils become "fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics".

This highlights the importance of children knowing the key mathematical facts and methods and being able to recall them efficiently, and supports their progress in maths, enabling them to apply their knowledge to rapidly and accurately solve problems.

As in previous years, your child has access to Times Table Rockstars which is an excellent resource. It is essential that children are fluent in their times tables and related division facts (so understanding that  $3 \times 4 = 12$  but also that  $12 \div 3 = 4$ ) - although many children are very good at this already, do encourage them to keep practising, and if they are rusty or still find some tricky, please encourage regular use of TT Rockstars.

Mathletics can be used in three ways, one for me to set specific tasks for children to complete, to complement the work we are doing in class; two for children to choose areas that they would like to work on; and three for fun practise of mental maths. Children should all know their log-ins and be able to access this regularly.

In addition, one area that most children need to practise is speedy and accurate mental calculations. Here are some examples:

- Roll 2 dice and add the numbers together as quickly as possible.
- Roll 3 or more dice and add the numbers together as quickly as possible.
- Roll 2 dice and 1 dice; add the 2 dice together then take away the third
- Look at car number plates and add up or multiply any numbers you can see.
- When shopping, challenge children to keep track of the total cost of what you are buying
- Speedy number bonds to 10, 20, 100 or 1
  - e.g. person A says 4 and B says either 6 (a number bond to 10)
  - e.g. person A says 12 and B says 8 (a number bond to 20)
  - e.g. person A says 27 and B says 73 (a number bond to 100)
  - e.g. person A says 0.45 and B says 0.55 (a number bond to 1)

## Topic Task

Be as creative as you like. Show us what you have learned by making, writing, drawing or using technology.

### Spring 1

History: World War II

Science: Light

Computing: Make a short film using i-Movie or something similar

RE: Buddhism

This will be shared in class on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.

### Spring 2

Geography: Changes in Leisure and Entertainment in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Science: Electricity and Circuits

RE: Humanism

This will be shared in class on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

In either term, children are also welcome to present something about an area of English or Maths they have found tricky or if they have a way of sharing their knowledge to support others' understanding, such as the different tenses in English or what algebra is and why it's useful.