

Year 6 newsletter

Autumn Term 1



Welcome!

Welcome back to the new academic year! The children have been incredible and have made a really positive start to their time in Year 6. We are so proud of them all.

Our 'In the Jungle' week was a great way to start the year and we are now ready to begin our first topic for the year. Well done Year 6! ❤️

Our Autumn Term One Topic: The Ancient Maya/Mexico!



In **English**, we will be focusing our writing around the fascinating country of Mexico. Over this half term, we will be writing a range of texts linked to our learning about Mexico such as a persuasive travel advert, and a narrative based on the film 'Coco'.

In **Maths**, the children will consolidate and develop their current understanding of place value and formal written methods. This will include work on rounding, negative numbers and decimal numbers. The children will engage in reasoning and problem solving throughout the half term. Children will also be introduced to long division and take part in their first assessment week. Following this, children will be organised into Maths groups. Please look out for a letter, sharing who your child's Maths teacher will be, in Week 5.

In **Science**, children will be learning about 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. This involves classifying animals, developing an awareness of the work of Carl Linnaeus and learning about microorganisms.

In **History**, the children will learn about the Ancient Maya civilization. The children will learn about the religious beliefs of the Ancient Maya in addition to learning about the Gods they believed in and the systems that were used for writing and counting.

In **Geography**, the children will undertake a study of Mexico as this is where the Ancient Mayan civilization settled. We will compare England to Mexico as it is today by researching the daily life, the temperature and weather, farming and the physical Geography of both countries.



In Music, Mrs Horwood will be looking at cyclic patterns with the children. This comprises of listening to and composing a variety of music in different styles. We will also be working on songs from the key stage two production.

In **R.E.**, the children will be learning about the sacred texts within Christianity, Islam and Sikhism. The children will research some of the key messages within each of these texts before comparing them.

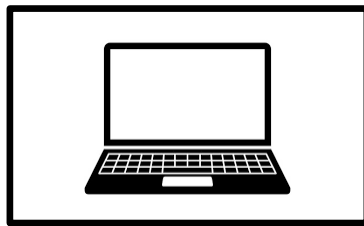
In **P.S.H.E.**, we will be looking at the value of the month for September – 'Integrity'.

The other value of the month for this half term is 'Co-operation', which will be our value of October. We will also be following our 'Jigsaw' scheme of work, beginning with the unit 'Being Me in My World'. We will be discussing our goals and aspirations for the year ahead in addition to recognising the necessary steps to reach our targets.

In P.E., the children will be learning how to play Handball and also playing Tag Rugby with Mr Smyth and Mr Elkington.

In French, the children will be learning French phonics to support their pronunciation whilst developing their understanding of regular verbs and verb endings.

In Computing, we will begin by looking at the important topic of 'Online Safety'. The children learn about this year on year and gain a deeper understanding of the importance of staying safe online. After, we will move on to our coding unit, where the children will continue to develop their block-based coding skills using 2Code on Purple Mash.



Homework

To begin the year, our homework will focus on regular practice of spellings and times tables. Children will take part in a spelling lesson each Monday and will be given a list of words that follow our spelling rule for that week. Please encourage your child to learn these words, with regular practise at home. Children can use 'Hit the Button'. 'Daily 10' or Times Tables Rockstars. There is a class battle set up on TTRS too – good luck everyone!

Children should also be reading at home regularly and recording this in their Home/School Link books at least three times per week – ideally daily. Home/School Link books will be collected on a Wednesday each week to ensure children are reading regularly at home.

If children have not been able to update their Home/School Link book and hand it in each week, they will be invited to read a book and make an entry towards their Home/School Link book on a Thursday breaktime.

Physical Education

P.E. and Games in Year 6 will take place with Mr Smyth and Mr Elkington this year.

Rundell Class	Tuesday – both PE sessions
Elphinstone Class	Tuesday and Thursday
Paver class	Tuesday and Thursday

Please ensure that your child comes to school on the days that they have P.E. wearing their full Priory Rise P.E. kit, including black plimsolls or black trainers. Children with earrings must be able to either take them out for their P.E. lessons or have micropore tape kept in their P.E. kit to cover their ears. As the weather becomes cooler, please ensure that your child has the appropriate warm outdoor P.E. kit.

Residential Visit: June 2024

We have made a provisional booking for the Year 6 children to visit the Peak District from the 17th – 20th June 2024. If you wish your child to take part in the visit, please make your deposit payment in Arbor.

Thank you to those families who have already done this.



Library



Rundell Class	Tuesday
Elphinstone Class	Friday
Paver Class	Thursday

Children in each Year 6 class will be able to visit the library each week. Please encourage your child to remember their library book on the relevant day to ensure that these can be changed regularly. If children are 'free readers', they will be able to select two books from the library each week. All other children will select one book from the school library.

Dates for your diary:

18th September – NSPCC Assembly for Key Stage 2

w/c 23rd September – Assessment Week

26th September – NSPCC Workshop

11th October – Black History Day

w/c 21st October – Virtual Parents' Evening

(more details to follow)

25th October – Diwali Celebration day in school

25th October – Last day of half term

Tuesday 5th November – back to school for Autumn 2 half term



Snacks and food from home



Just a quick reminder that any break time snacks and packed lunches should be nut free.

We are a nut-free school and it is really important that we all follow this guideline to ensure everyone is kept safe.

Thank-you for your support with this.

Uniform

We expect Year 6 look to look extremely smart in their school uniform as role models for the other year groups. To prevent items going missing, please ensure that all items of your child's school uniform and equipment is clearly named.

Thank-you in advance for this!

Children should be wearing black school shoes as part of their uniform, not black trainers.

Please also be reminded nail varnish and/or false nails are not permitted in school and long hair should be tied up for P.E. lessons.

Communication

If you have a message for your child's class teacher, please record this in your child's Home/School link book. Alternatively, you can email the Year 6 teaching team on the following email address:

year6@priorityrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk

All of the Year 6 teachers are now able to access this email address and will respond as soon as they are able to.

Staff in Year Six

Mrs Laura Pry – Paver Class Teacher and Year 6 Leader

Mrs Emily Dean – Paver Class Teacher (0.5)

Miss Libby Bastiani – Rundell Class Teacher

Mr Dave Revers – Elphinstone Class teacher

Mrs Cath Dobson – Deputy Head

Mrs Vickie Snell – Specialist Maths Teacher

Mrs Kate Bromage – Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mrs Tracy Osborn – Teaching Assistant

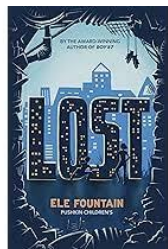
Mrs Hema Patel, Mrs Lucy Whitter and Mrs Francesca Menna – Teaching Assistants providing specialist support

Book recommendations:



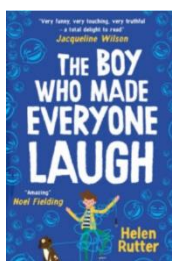
Miss Bastiani – The House With Chicken Legs

An exciting and adventurous book featuring twelve-year-old Marinka, who is dreaming of a normal life where her house stays in one place long enough for her to make friends. However, her house has chicken legs and moves without warning! The only people Marinka meet are dead and they disappear when her grandmother guides them through the gate. A story filled with adventure, family and friendship and is also found in Rundell's reading corner!



Mrs Dobson – Lost

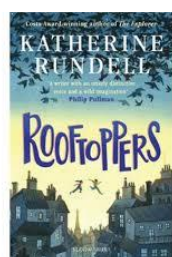
Lost is a powerful book that encourages readers to think about how much good they have in their life. It is based around a young girl called Lola. Her life becomes unrecognisable in an instant as she encounters disaster after disaster – leaving her world turned upside down. This is a story of grit and determination as Lola faces a new normal – where life is anything but normal! A wonderful book that is beautifully written – I recommend this as a must read!



Mrs Snell – The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh

Billy Bannerdale really wants to be a stand-up comedian. It's his dream! But something stands in his way – his stammer. How can he be a comedian if he can't say his jokes? This is a really funny book with a warm and positive message – a brilliant read!

Mr Revers – Rooftoppers



Everyone thinks that Sophie is an orphan. True, there were no other recorded female survivors from the shipwreck that left baby Sophie floating in the English Channel in a cello case, but Sophie remembers seeing her mother wave for help. Her guardian, Charles, tells her it is almost impossible that her mother is still alive – but 'almost impossible' means 'still possible'. And you should never ignore a possible. So, when the Welfare Agency writes to her guardian, threatening to send Sophie to an orphanage, she takes matters into her own hands and flees to Paris to look for her mother, starting with the only clue she has – the address of the cello maker. She meets Matteo and his network of rooftoppers – urchins who live in the hidden spaces above the city. Together they scour the city in a search for Sophie's mother – but can they find her before Sophie is caught and sent back to London? Or, more importantly, before she loses hope?



Mrs Pry – Jungledrop

We have started to read this book as part of 'In the Jungle Week' and in Paver Class, we are completely hooked! Follow the story of Fox Fibber – rival twins – who must compete to save their family fortune or face being exiled. Their journey begins after a mysterious train ride ends in Jungledrop. Will the twins be able to work together, for the first time ever, to find the Forever Fern and save the Unmapped Kingdoms?



Mrs Dean – The Girl Who Speaks Bear

I am a big fan of a Sophie Anderson book! This story follows a 12 year old, Yanka, on a quest of self-discovery in a forbidden forest after she wakes up one morning with bear legs. It is set in the same world as Anderson's debut fantasy novel, The House with Chicken Legs and takes inspiration from Russian folklore. It discusses themes about feeling different, being true to yourself and accepting help from your friends.