



# Welcome to Year 6

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 6, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

## Year 6 Staff

Mrs Saskia Pemberton (Falcon Class teacher)  
Miss Nickie Moss (Eagle Class teacher)  
Mrs Lisa Collins (Year 6 TA)  
Mrs Elaine Paggett (Year 6 HLTA)  
Mrs Judith Kelleher (Falcon Friday & PPA teacher)  
Mr Robin Wise (Eagle PPA teacher)

## Year 6 Expectations

The children are always encouraged to take pride in their work and their work ethic. We expect the children to give their best effort in class and to take care with the content and presentation of their work. We want them to be proud of themselves. The pace of work will be challenging. We have a lot to do! Work, as always, will be matched to your child's ability; extra challenge and support will be given where needed.

A big part of Year 6 is preparing children for the transition to Secondary School. The children need to ensure that they have the necessary equipment for each day and try their very best to hand in homework on the correct day.

However, when things don't go so well, appropriate sanctions will be given.

In Year 6, the children will have the opportunity to take on responsibilities. Throughout the year, the children may be elected or selected to take on different roles throughout the school. These may include:

- Being a **Prefect** (being an exemplary role model to the younger children).
- **House & Vice Captains** - Two boys and 2 girls from each house will be elected to be the House & Vice Captains for the year.
- **School Council** - Elections will take place at the start of this academic year. One girl and one boy from each Year 6 class will be elected by their peers to represent their class at regular school council meetings.
- **Playground Buddies** - Supporting the younger children in the playground.
- **Eco-committee** - Responsible for raising the profile of environmental issues around the school.
- **Junior Road Safety Officer** - Works with the local Road Safety Officer, running competitions and other activities to raise the profile of road safety in the school.
- **Digital Leaders** - Responsible for supporting e-safety within the school community and inspiring computing excellence in the school curriculum
- **Reception child buddy** - All Year 6's will have a buddy from Reception class to help them to settle into school life. The children all gain valuable skills from this partnership.

## Year 6 Curriculum

**English** and **Mathematics** will usually be taught every morning and will follow the New Curriculum 2014. Maths will be taught in three ability groups and Spelling in four. This academic year we will no longer be dividing the children in Years 3-6 into ability sets for the teaching of English (with the exception of spelling and phonics). We believe it is important to ensure that English skills are firmly embedded into other subjects such as Science, History and Geography which are currently taught in whole class groups.

Writing will be taught in mixed ability class groups, by your child's own class teacher, where the work will be differentiated for the varying ability groups within the class.

The skills the children acquire can then be more thoroughly reinforced through the writing produced in other subject areas. More cross-curricular teaching may also take place where links will be made between English and other subjects. For example an English unit on persuasive arguments may be taught through a history topic or developing cohesion between sentences may be addressed through the writing of scientific conclusions. We hope that the children will understand the importance of showing their best literacy skills in all written tasks and not just in isolated English lessons.

The teaching sessions are as detailed below:

Session 1) 9:00 - 10:10am

Session 2) 10:25 - 11:25am

Session 3) 11:30 - 12:30pm

Session 4) 1:30 - 2:40pm / 3:10pm

Assembly each day at either 1:35 or 2.45pm

The children will have 1 hour for lunch but do not have an afternoon break.

Many of the topic areas will encourage the children to undertake some personal research, in order to develop their independent study skills.

Continuing to develop the children's confidence is also important. Raising self-esteem helps children with all areas of their schoolwork.

On alternate Tuesdays, the Falcons will be taught by Mrs Kelleher and the Eagles by Mr Wise, to enable Mrs Pemberton and Miss Moss to have their entitled PPA time. In addition, Mrs Kelleher will be teaching Falcons every Friday.

Details of the curriculum that your child will study during the academic year can be found on the school website. To locate this information simply go to the 'About us' section and then click on 'Curriculum'. In this area you will find details about our topics and the areas that the children will be studying in English, Maths, Science, Computing and RE. This will be updated prior to the start of each new topic. Terms 1 & 2 have been amended to reflect this academic year.

### School Trips:

Visits to Ashford town center and local area linked to our topic - September and October (no cost involved).

Visit to Canterbury - December (approximate cost £20).

Activity Week W/B 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (approximate cost £35). More details of activities to follow later in the academic year.

### Homework Diary & Record Books

Your child will have been given a Homework Diary & Record Book in which we would like them to record their homework, when it is due in and any reading that they have been doing.

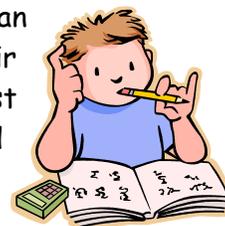
### **Reading**

Your child can have a school reading book or one from home. Whenever possible, we would encourage the children to read to an adult at home and the adult is then welcome to write a short comment if they wish or simply sign and date in the appropriate part of the page. We do appreciate that once the children become more independent readers, they may not want to read to an adult and so we are happy for the children to take ownership of keeping a record of their reading. However, we do ask that you sign at the end of each week to get them familiar with the procedures that many Secondary schools have. We will then ask the children to bring their Homework Diary to each Class Reading session and to hand them in on a Tuesday to be signed by us. This will give us the opportunity to monitor the children's personal reading, homework and notes and to give praise to those who are completing the tasks.



### **Homework**

Homework will be set regularly and the children will be told when it needs to be returned to school. Homework at this stage in Key Stage 2 should be approx 20 - 30 mins per night **this includes regular reading time**. Sometimes a homework sheet sent home might have more questions than your child can do within that time. If they don't complete it all, that's fine! Their homework should represent a concerted effort for about that length of time. Most homework will link in with class-work and will cover areas that the children have looked at before. There will be times when they can't remember what to do by the time they get home. If so, rather than get in a panic, the children should come and see us the next day or before the homework is due in. On occasions, homework may take the form of independent research and problem solving activities. Homework should not be a battle, so it is useful to get into a routine at home.



Homework Diary & Record Books should be in school **every day**.

## Spelling and Phonics

Following an initial class assessment, the children will either focus on revision of phonics work from the Letters and Sounds scheme in Terms 1 & 2 or they may move onto exploring other spelling rules and strategies using the new curriculum. Phonics and Spelling work is currently taught in ability groups for one hour each week. In addition to our spelling sessions, we will be trialing a spelling program based on the Statutory Word lists from the National Curriculum. Your child will be sent home a word list to practise and learn on a weekly basis (subject to change).

## Times Tables

Children are expected to practise their times tables at home. Children will be given a specific set of tables to practise at home each week. These will incorporate division calculations linked to multiplication tables. There will be a tables test in school once a week. For those children who have completed the school-based times table cycle, we will provide an additional mental arithmetic activity on a fortnightly basis. However, we feel that it is important that the children continue to revise and recall their times tables at pace in order to maintain mental agility therefore they will participate in a times table test every other week.

## Equipment and Resources

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom; this includes pencils, pens, rulers and scissors. **However we encourage children to use their own pencil case of essential equipment: writing pencil, pen (blue ink and not biro), coloured pencils, ruler and rubber.** These should be named. We feel that this is excellent practice prior to your child starting Secondary School, where they will be expected to have their own equipment for each and every lesson of the school day. If children are inconsiderate about the use of school equipment this will need to be replaced at a cost to parents.



## P.E

The children in Eagles will have timetabled PE on a Thursday and Friday and the Falcons children will have PE on a Monday and Wednesday. However it is useful for them to have their PE kit in school every day. PE kits should be brought into school on a Monday morning and taken home on a Friday. It is essential that PE kit should consist of a coloured house t-shirt, black or navy shorts, plimsols for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE. A tracksuit is useful for outdoor PE in colder weather. **All items of clothing should be named.** If your child frequently forgets their PE kit, a letter will be sent home. Please note **that all items of jewellery must be removed.** *If a child is unable to remove his/her jewellery, they will not be able to participate in PE.* If a child is excused from PE for a particular reason, we will need to have a letter from you informing us of the case.

### **Celebration Assembly**

This will take place on a Monday. This is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded each week with special certificates. Upper school and Middle school will alternate each week in selecting a Citizen of the Week.

### **Healthy Snacks and Water**

Children may bring fruit or vegetables for a snack Monday to Thursday, and a healthy snack on Friday. Children are allowed **water** to drink in their classrooms. This should be provided in a 'Godinton Water Bottle' (available to purchase from the school office) or a clear bottle with a sports cap, no larger than 500ml.

### **Speaking to School Staff**

Children are expected to come into school independently in the morning. First thing in the morning is not an ideal time for parents to talk to staff at length as their priority must be supervising the children coming safely into the classroom. We are often available for a brief chat or a message to be passed on most days after school. Many minor problems can be sorted out this way. For more important matters an appointment can be made via the school office.

### **Finally ...**

We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child has an enjoyable and rewarding year. If you do need to speak to us at any time, please do not hesitate to telephone or to pop into the office to make an appointment.

**The Year 6 Team**