

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

Miss Nickie Moss (Eagle Class teacher)
Mrs Saskia Pemberton (Falcon Class teacher)
Mrs Lindsey Tinker (Falcon Class Friday teacher)
Mrs Angie Ades (Year 6 TA)
Mrs Christine Mechie (Year 6 TA)
Mrs Nikki Town (Year 6 TA)
Mrs Lisa Collins (Eagle PPA HLTA)
Mrs Anne McGoldrick (Falcon PPA HLTA)

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 complete 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.
- **Playground Buddies** – Supporting the younger children in the playground.
- **Eco Reps** – 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

Details of the curriculum that your child will be studying during the academic year can be found on the school website. To locate this information simply go to the 'Information for parents' section and then click on 'Curriculum'. In this section you will find details about our topics and the areas that the children will be studying. This section of the website will be updated at the start of each new topic.

We endeavour to make as many links to our topic in our studies throughout the curriculum and our weekly timetable is flexible, taking into account various visits, celebrations, visiting speakers, etc.

Maths

As in Year 5, Maths will be taught in ability groups. Maths will always be taught in the morning and details of the coverage for each set can be found on the school website.

English

We will continue to teach English lesson as a whole class as we believe it is important to ensure that literacy 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 – a unit on adventure story writing may be taught through a history topic or the development of spelling patterns may be explored through writing in science. We hope that the children will understand the importance of showing their best writing skills in all written tasks and not just in isolated English lessons.

Reading

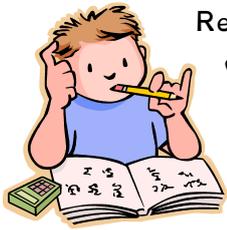
Your child will have been given a Homework Diary in which we would like them to record any reading they have been doing. This can be for a school reading book or one from home and in Year 6 we expect children to read for a minimum of three times a week. Our aim is to encourage all children to read as often as possible and for the children to develop a life-long love of reading. It is our observation that children who read regularly at home, and therefore read a wider range of texts, tend to demonstrate greater progress in reading, writing and spelling.





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 diary 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 in to school each day and to hand them in on a **Monday** in Falcon Class or **Tuesday** in Eagle Class 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



Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts.

Younger children need to be developing their skills of sounding out words, blending sounds together to develop fluency. Discussing the content of the story with the children is also important. As children become fluent readers, it is still important to read regularly and discuss events in the story, the vocabulary used in the story and consider why an author has used a particular word and the effect it has on the reader. Children also need to develop their inference and deduction skills; considering the mood of a character or his/her personality based on the evidence or clues within a text.

The ability to recall number facts at speed contributes greatly to many areas of Maths. With speedy recall, children are able to make greater links between facts e.g. If you know $4 \times 6 = 24$, you can quickly calculate $40 \times 6 = 240$ and $40 \times 60 = 2400$. Knowledge of these facts also enables written calculations to be accurate and there are also many links to be made to fractions, decimals and percentages.

As part of weekly homework this year, we want to place a greater emphasis on the children practising these skills. Therefore, they will become the core element of homework. Children should be reading at home at least several times a week, practising spellings regularly and rehearsing number facts or as they get older times tables. There are many different online games and activities to help support these activities.

Children in Year 6 will be set weekly maths homework (see *MyMaths* below) in addition to reading, practising spellings and multiplication / division facts. Children will continue to have weekly times tables tests and progress will be monitored. On alternate weeks, children will be set one piece of English based homework which may also link to the topic being studied. We will ask the children to record in their Homework Diaries details of the work set and when it is due in.

Homework should represent a concerted effort for about 20–30 minutes. 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.

During the autumn term, we are intending on subscribing to a new online system for Maths homework called *MyMaths* which will enable all homework to be set and completed using either a computer or tablet. Further details regarding the launch of *MyMaths* and how to use the site will be sent in due course.

For further information about the school's homework policy, please see the 'How can I help my child' section on the school website.

Spellings

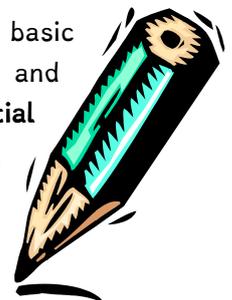
Spelling and phonics is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. In Year 6, following an initial class assessment, the children will either focus on revision of phonics work from the Letters and Sounds scheme in Terms 1 & 2 or they may move onto exploring other spelling rules and strategies using 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 using 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.

Times tables

Children are expected to practise their times tables at home and there will be a tables test in school once a week. This will be as part of the Mathematics lessons, usually on a Tuesday for Higher Set and on a Wednesday for Lower Set. 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 Monday (Indoor) and Friday (Outdoor) and the Falcons children will have PE on a Monday (Indoor) and Wednesday (Outdoor.) Your child's PE kit should be 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 kits 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 as we will only miss these sessions if the conditions are extreme. **All items should be fully named.** If your child wears earrings these **must** be taken out for PE. Any child who cannot remove them, will not be allowed to participate in PE sessions.

School Trips

Visit 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 11th June 2017 (approximate cost £40). More details of activities to follow later in the academic year.

Celebration Assembly



This will take place on a Thursday. This is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded each week with special certificates. Also every fortnight a child from each class, who has demonstrated one or more of the key values of our school, will be invited to a tea party with Miss Talbot.

Healthy Snacks and Water

Children may bring fruit as a snack for morning break from Monday to Thursday and can bring in a healthy snack (cheese, yoghurt etc) 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, no larger than 500ml which has their name on. All water bottles must have a sports cap to help reduce spillages.

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 as their priority must be supervising the children coming safely into the classroom. We escort the children onto the playground in the afternoon unless we are running an after school club, this is a good time to catch us and many minor problems can be sorted out at this time. For more important matters, an appointment can be made via the school office. We hope that you find this information helpful and we look forward to working with you and your child over the coming year.

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