



# Year 6 Deer Class Newsletter

## Term 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 5. I hope you all had a lovely Easter and that the children enjoyed a restful break ahead of this very busy term. It is hard to believe we have entered the summer term already and I have no doubt the weeks will rush by as we embark on all that the final part of Year 6 brings.

While not our main focus as a school, we cannot escape the fact that the KS2 SATs assessments are almost upon us, which will take place from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May. These tests give the children the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding in maths, reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar, based on their learning throughout Key Stage Two. The children have worked so hard this year, and I am sure they will continue to do so over the next few weeks in final preparation for their assessments. The children are very familiar with the style of the tests, and therefore have no reason to worry. As always, we will encourage them to have confidence in themselves and try their very best.

### Curriculum Overview

With the aim of working in partnership with you to support your child's learning, the following provides a brief outline of the teaching and learning that will take place across the curriculum in Year 6 this term.

In **literacy**, we will be starting the term with plenty of revision of spelling, punctuation, grammar and reading comprehension skills that the children will be assessed on in their SATs tests. The aim of this revision is to enable all of the children to embrace the assessments in May with real confidence. In addition, the children will continue to produce many different genres of writing, including character descriptions, instructions, stories and poetry, showcasing their use of language, their flair for writing, and their application of technical components, such as spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Our **maths** this term will primarily involve revision of all of the areas of the curriculum covered throughout Key Stage Two. We will continue with our daily arithmetic practice to secure the children's use of calculation skills and the four operations, and we will work on using and applying mathematical knowledge and skills to solve a wide range of problems. The children will have the opportunity in the first few weeks of the term to raise questions about any areas of maths that they would like to revisit more thoroughly, and revision topics will be guided by the class' overall need.

Our whole school approach to **science** is to study many areas of the science curriculum in short bursts, so that topics can be revisited throughout the year, enabling children to continually build on previous learning. This term, we will explore topics such as inheritance and genes; the human circulatory system; classification of living things; and types of adaptation in nature.

Our **history** topic this term sees us delve into the Mayan Civilization. We will find out about this ancient civilization from Mexico and Central America, discovering information about their way of life, their homes, their food, their inventions and their impressive buildings. The topic will allow for various types of independent research and project work, as well as making cross-curricular links with art and DT.

Our **music** for the next two terms will centre around learning, rehearsing and performing the songs for our Year 6 Production, which will be performed in July. There will be opportunities for developing singing skills such as singing in tune with good diction; singing in unison; solos and singing in a chorus; and performing to an audience.

In **RE** we will complete our unit of work on key principles and commitments in Christianity, Hinduism and Islam and consider how famous religious leaders from particular faiths lived their lives by such principles. We will later go on to explore the question: 'What do religions say to us when life gets hard?' This unit opens up discussions about how spirituality and faith helps people to cope with difficulties in life, such as suffering and bereavement.

Our **PSHE** work for the next two terms will focus largely on transition for moving onto secondary school and general ideas about growing up. We will consider the overarching questions, 'What will change as we become more independent?' and 'How do friendships change as we grow?' Later on in the term and in Term 6, we will complete some focussed relationships and sex education (RSE), covering topics such as puberty, hygiene, consensual relationships and so on.

In **computing** this term, the children will use our 'Lego Wedo' resources to learn about programming, following instructions and algorithms to make 'robots' function accurately. This will give opportunities for problem solving and collaborative critical thinking. We will also build on our learning about online safety and the children will produce presentations about how to stay safe in the digital world.

In **art & DT**, we will complete our unit on optical illusions from last term and then move onto a painting project inspired by the work of Tania Wight, producing fractured landscapes on the theme of the sea. Later on, we will produce artwork linked to our history work on the Mayans.

Our **PE** this term will include core stability and flexibility, dance and cricket. PE lessons will be taught on a **Wednesday afternoon and a Friday afternoon**, and your child can wear their PE kit into school on these days. If your child wears earrings, please ensure they are either removed or covered on PE days and that any long hair is tied back.

In **French** this term, we will be looking at the unit 'Monter un café', in which the children will learn vocabulary related to setting up a café. The focus will be on using the conversational phrases and vocabulary verbally and writing key vocabulary down accurately.

## Home learning

The focus of home learning continues to be reading, spellings and times tables. Please encourage your child to read as much as possible at home, choosing books they are interested in, as this really helps to build their stamina and enjoyment of reading.

**Spellings:** Your child will continue to bring home a list of 10 spellings every Thursday to learn, which will be tested the following Tuesday. They can practise these spellings in whichever way works best for them. It is very important that the children work hard to learn their list of words, as the spellings they are expected to use in their writing become increasingly challenging. *There will be no spellings test for Year 6 during SATs Week.*

**Times Tables:** The children should be regularly practising times tables at home to support their learning in all different areas of maths. If your child is already confident in recalling their times tables, it is a good idea for them to challenge themselves to speed up their instant recall and beat their own time. Assignments will be set on Maths Shed every Thursday to support children with rapid recall of times tables and other areas of mental arithmetic.

If your child wishes to do additional work at home, any research around our history topic on the Mayan Civilization would support their learning at school. Additional work of this kind will always be praised and celebrated in class. Thank you in advance for your support with all aspects of the home learning.

A useful starting point for researching the Mayans is <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw> .

## Secondary Transition

This term, transition meetings will begin with secondary school teachers and will continue throughout Term 6. These meetings offer a valuable opportunity for me to pass on key information about your child's learning, behaviour and attitudes, as well as time for the children to meet staff from their new school. In July, the children will spend time at their new schools during transition days. Further information about the dates and details of these days will follow in due course.

I am very aware of the mixed emotions that the children may be feeling with regards to moving onto secondary school and I would like to reassure you, and the children, that we will complete a range of lessons and activities related to transition throughout terms 5 and 6, to help answer any questions or concerns that may arise.



### **Our Class Targets**

Across the school, we are working hard to develop all children's independence by setting small targets for the children to work on. With this in mind, the targets for Year Six this term are:

- To engage with home learning every week, including reading, Maths Shed and spelling practice.
- To work hard on resolving their own issues on the playground by talking to each other more readily about what might have happened.
- To develop confidence in speaking up in class discussions and sharing personal views.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April: British Values Day

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April: Class Photographs & Year 6 Individual Photos

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May KS2 SATs Week

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Year 6 Visit to Gurdwara

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Year 6 Transition Day at Davington School

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May: End of Term 5

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: INSET DAY

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June: Start of Term 6 for children

I hope that this will be another happy, exciting and rewarding term for your child. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me on the playground or contact me via the school office.

Kind regards,

Miss Holmes