

# Welwyn St. Mary's Primary School. Autumn Term 2016 Year 6

**Welcome to  
Year 6**



**Light and  
Electricity**



**Structures  
(Bridges)**



P6	HT6
<p data-bbox="288 174 571 389" style="text-align: center;"><b>Mrs Platt and Mrs Phillips</b> <i>Class Teachers</i></p> <p data-bbox="97 459 608 544"><b>Ms Mills</b> <i>Teaching Assistant every morning</i></p> <p data-bbox="97 595 663 723"><b>Mrs Weaver</b> <i>Teaching Assistant every morning. 1:1 support.</i></p> <p data-bbox="97 775 743 902"><b>Mr O'Neill</b> <i>Teaching Assistant across both classes am. 1:1 support in the afternoons.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="970 174 1268 389" style="text-align: center;"><b>Mrs Thompson and Mrs Harrison</b> <i>Class Teachers</i></p> <p data-bbox="788 459 1299 544"><b>Mrs Ariss</b> <i>Teaching Assistant every morning</i></p> <p data-bbox="788 595 1434 723"><b>Mrs Soppett-Moss</b> <i>Teaching Assistant across both classes during maths lessons - small group support.</i></p>

We are delighted to inform you that once again we will have a booster teacher (Mrs Mather) in Year 6 for four mornings every week. This provision will start after half term and then run through until SATs. The children will be split into three groups for English and Maths for these four days.

**Hello and welcome to Year 6,**

We hope that you find all of the information in this leaflet useful. If you have any further questions about the term ahead please do let us know so that we can arrange a time to talk to you.

There are a few things that you can do to help us:

- Please ensure that your child brings their reading record and reading book to school every day. Please encourage your child to complete their reading records.
- **Please ensure that your child's clothing (cardigans and jumpers in particular!) are named.**
- Please do not hesitate to let us know if your child struggles with a piece of homework (a note on the actual piece of homework or in their reading record is fine).

Thank you!

## Daily Routines.

We encourage each child to learn and follow simple daily routines in order to make them independent and responsible for their own belongings. It would be an enormous help to the staff and your child if you could support this by doing the following:

- Dropping your child off promptly at the KS2 waiting area every morning allowing them to walk into school ready for their day's learning.
- Giving your child a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat at break time. Please remember that our school policy is fresh fruit and veg only.
- Labelling all belongings including clothes, PE kits and shoes.
- Ensuring your child has their PE kit on the correct days. Children must take earrings out for PE, however if a child cannot do this then please provide tape in their kits for them to be covered.
- Ensuring your child has their book bag, lunch box (if they need one) and water bottle (water only please) with them in the morning.
- Waiting for your child at the end of each day inside the KS2 waiting area.

**Please do not wait on the road. Please remind your child that if for any reason they cannot find you after school they must come back and go to the school office.**

## Topics for this term - Year 6 are now fully using the New Curriculum.

### English

The literacy lesson will continue on a daily basis. We will be studying a range of literacy genres including: spy stories, poetry, autobiographical and biographical writing and stories with a historical nature (we will look at a story based on the Suffragettes). For each unit of work the children will be reading and studying quality texts from a range of authors.

We will aim to develop the children's ability in narrative and non-narrative writing, making them secure in the basic conventions of written English, encouraging correct usage of punctuation and spelling. In addition to this, sentence structure and grammar will also be developed so that the children's writing starts to become more sophisticated. Over the last couple of years there has been greater emphasis on the correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling as well as children knowing the correct terminology. All this will be taught in our lessons and through other areas of the curriculum. To help you help your child at home we will loan the children a book which explains the grammar concepts very clearly. Please also help your children learn the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 key spelling words, which are glued inside your child's homework book.

In addition to this, have a look at our school website, in the Year 6 section, for ideas to support your child. Here is another useful site:

[www.woodlandsjunior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy2](http://www.woodlandsjunior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy2)



## Maths

As in previous years, the daily maths lesson will include a balance of mental and written activities and will encourage the children to apply the skills they are learning. The topics covered will include number, data handling, area and fractions. **A good working knowledge of the times tables is essential.** Please help your child to both learn these and be able to use them quickly. Mental arithmetic homework will continue as usual and is marked in school on a Monday.

For more information about what your children will be learning in maths throughout the year please visit our website [www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk). You can also find a useful vocabulary list, some games you might wish to play with your child and a document outlining the progression of written methods in mathematics.

## Science

This term our topics will be "Let it shine" and "Electrifying!"

Our Let it Shine topic introduces the concept of light travelling in straight lines. We will start by looking at beams of light and how light travels, to enable the children to understand how we see things. This understanding is then applied to the production of shadows and begins to look at how light is reflected. The topic then takes the learning into the realm of coloured light and rainbows, using scientific skills to raise and answer questions.



During our Electrifying unit we build on the Year 4 work on electricity, taking it into the scientific use of symbols for components in a circuit as well as considering the effect in more detail of changing components in a circuit.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/index\\_flash.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/index_flash.shtml)

## RE

Our topics this term are: Creation and Questions, Christmas - Light.

During these lessons the children will learn that there are questions to which there are no universally agreed answers and consider these for themselves - using understanding of several world faiths. For our 'Christmas' topic the children will learn to recognise and consider the significance of light in their own lives and celebrations.

## Computing

Our Year 6 children will be working towards creating and programming an app which is the first topic of our New Curriculum computing scheme. This term we will begin with learning about the capabilities of smartphones, thinking of a problem that a smartphone or tablet app could solve, and then pitching the idea for our app. We will then work collaboratively to develop a smartphone or tablet app. The children will apply computational thinking to the task of managing a complex project.

## **History/Geography**

This term we will be exploring two new topics; in Geography we will be finding out about North, South and Central America and this study will link to our History topic about the Mayan people of Central America.

## **Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE)**

Some of the themes to be covered this term using SEAL materials:

- New Beginnings
- Relationships
- Say No to bullying

## **Art**

Our Art theme for this term will be linked to our topic work - The Americas and The Mayans. In addition to this, the children will undertake a whole school art project looking at creating a banner relating to a key Christian RE concept. We will also carry out a number of Christmas art activities, including the PTFA Christmas cards.

## **Design and Technology**

This term we will be looking at bridges. We will examine

- The design of bridges
- The materials used in construction
- The strength of the structure and how this is achieved
- How forces are balanced.

## **French**

In French our topic is L'argent de poche (Pocket Money) Children will continue to gain confidence in manipulating numbers and learn further expressions for likes and dislikes. They begin to learn about the euro. They prepare and perform an advertisement for a toy. Our second topic is Raconte-moi une histoire (Tell me a story). Children will work on sounds and spellings and continue to gain confidence in manipulating numbers, learning multiples of 10 to 100. They learn some common adjectives, revise how to make simple feminine agreements and give instructions. The topic is based on the story of Sleeping Beauty. Please help your child to practice their French by encouraging them to share the vocabulary they have learnt in lessons. I would like to continue offering the children in Year 6 the opportunity to read in French and would ask you to contact me via the office if you are a French speaker and feel able to help ideally for an hour on a Friday afternoon.

## **Music**

In music, we will be studying complex rhythms using Djembe Drums; learning songs for Christmas and in line with the New National Curriculum, we will be learning about the Baroque, Classical and Romantic Eras, focusing on the works of composers from each period.

## Homework

This term we will be sending homework as follows:

- **Reading** please ensure that your child continues to read at home every evening for at least 10 minutes and that you complete their Reading Record book by commenting daily and signing it at the end of each week. It is also beneficial if you read *to* your child whenever possible.
- **Spellings/Literacy** - The children have been taught to practise spellings using the 'look, say, cover, write, check,' method and other spelling strategies. In class we will also be revising and consolidating spelling rules. For more information please read the letter which has been placed in the front of their homework books. Homework will go out on a Friday and is due in on Thursday the following week. See the weekly spelling sheet for homework tasks.
- **Maths** homework will be in the form of the Mental Maths Book and must be in school for marking every **Monday** morning. We will mark their books together and it is expected that the children complete any corrections at home. However, please encourage your child to ask their teacher for further clarification, if they do not understand a question.
- **Curriculum based homework** - during this term the children may be given topic related homework instead of one long term project. This will help us support the new National Curriculum and further prepare your child for secondary school.

## Ways to help your child in Year 6

Your child should still be **reading everyday** so please encourage this. It is also useful to check reading records regularly for any information about homework etc and sign at the bottom at least once a week. Please continue to hear your child read too.

- ☺ If you still have your 'writing pyramid' at home, help your child to vary their sentences when writing. **Use the school website (Year 6 class section) for resources.**
- ☺ Help your child develop their mental maths - see our Basic Essential List on the school website
- ☺ Encourage your child to come to school prepared for the day ahead with a pencil, blue pen (not biro), green pen, ruler, rubber, glue stick etc and any homework needed for that day.
- ☺ Ensure PE kit is in school on the correct days.
- ☺ Talk to your child about the topics we are covering in school.

## **WEEKLY ARRANGEMENTS TERM 1**

Monday	Mental Arithmetic homework to be returned (HT6 and P6) and given out on the same day.
Thursday	Spelling test and literacy homework due in (P6, HT6 and Booster group).
Friday	New spellings and literacy homework given out (P6, HT6 and Booster group).

**Please keep checking the monthly news letters for any new events.**

### Looking Smart in School Uniform.

Our school uniform is simple and practical, intended to keep the children looking smart and contributing to a feeling of belonging to the school.

#### Girls

- White blouse or polo shirt.
- Grey skirt or pinafore dress or tailored trousers.
- Maroon school sweatshirt or cardigan.
- In the winter, grey socks or grey tights.
- In the summer, pink (not red) check cotton dress and plain white socks.



#### Boys

- White polo shirt.
- Grey long trousers.
- Maroon school sweatshirt.
  - Plain grey socks.

#### All children also require:

- Plain sensible black shoes (not boots, sandals or trainers).
- School book bag.
- Water bottle.
- School sun hat.

#### Sports

- Coloured house T-shirt (Blue - Normans, Red - Vikings, Green - Romans, Yellow - Saxons).
- Plain black P.E. shorts
- Trainers for outdoor games
- Tracksuits may be worn for outside games in colder weather

It is helpful if the children keep their P.E. kit in a named drawstring bag to hang on their peg rather than a backpack or a large kitbag. If for any reason your child can not do P.E. or does not have the correct kit please can you notify the class teacher in the form of a note. Thank you.

#### Jewellery, hair and nails

We do not allow jewellery in school as it can be a source of danger in P.E. and swimming. Pierced ears should have a stud only. Earrings have to be removed or taped for P.E. and swimming lessons. Please provide a roll of tape in your child's PE bag if they are going to tape their ears.

All long hair **must** be tied back for games and swimming lessons.

We would also appreciate it, if children with long hair could tie it back during the general school day with plain and simple bands, clips or ribbons in brown, black or maroon.

Boys' hair should be a traditional style and neither too short or too long. No 'fashion' cuts are allowed.

Nail varnish should be removed before the start of each school day.

The school and Local Authority do not accept liability for loss or damage to personal property and we therefore do not encourage children to bring such items, including toys to school.

## E-Safety

Below is some important information on the school's policies on taking photographs of children as well as a copy of the e-safety agreement that the children sign.

### Using Images Safely and Responsibly

We all enjoy and treasure images of our family and friends. Our new born baby, first steps, family events, holidays and school events are moments we all like to capture in photos or on video. We then have the added and exciting dimension of adding our images and video to our social network, such as Facebook, YouTube and many other online websites. This means that we can easily share our photos and video with family and friends. Whilst this is naturally useful, in schools and educational settings we do need to protect and safeguard all children and staff in our school, including those who do not want to have their images stored online.

Online Images and Video. What should we think about before adding online any images or video?

Are there any risks?

Facts

- Once online any image or video can be copied and stay online forever.
- Some children are at risk and **MUST NOT** have their image put online. Not all members of the school community will know who they are.
- Some people do not want their images online for personal or religious reasons.
- Some children and staff may have a complex family background which means that image sharing online can have unforeseen consequences.

We must all 'Think Before We Post' Online

At Welwyn St. Mary's School we are happy for parents and carers to take photos and video of the school events and productions for personal use but request that these images are not distributed or put online. This is to protect all members of the school community.

Thank you for your support.

Please note: From time to time we use photographs of our pupils to promote and celebrate the good work in our school. This might be on our website or in paper form to carefully selected audiences. We never publish a child's name alongside their photograph for reasons of safety. **If you do not wish your child's be photograph to be used in this way please send a letter in to your child's teacher.**

*Finally, please encourage your child to talk about their work and, if you can, carry out extra research with them.*

*Thank you for your support.*

Mrs Phillips, Mrs Platt, Mrs Harrison and Mrs Thompson

September 2016