

Welcome to Year 6

Summer Term Newsletter

Year 6 Team:
Mr Theakston and Mrs Sheldon
 We have a student teacher from Durham University, Miss Clarke, working in our class this term.

YEAR 6 PEN PALS!

We'll be keeping up with our pen pals in Reception this term and getting into more of a routine in writing to them now that we are all back at school; we really helped them to settle into school in the Autumn and now need to help them again after the Spring. We are hoping that we might one day be able to meet them in person later in the summer as things improve, as the younger children will really benefit from being around what is a fantastic group of Year 6 children. Top class role models.




WHERE WE ARE INSPIRATIONS EVERY DAY!

Welcome back from the Easter break! I hope that all of the Year 6 children and their families were able to enjoy a restful and fun break—you had definitely all earned it! What a crazy term that was before Easter! We have another cracking term lined up, where we'll be doing everything we can to make sure that the Year 6 children have their best time yet at our school. We've got a brilliant topic in World War 2 to get stuck into, something that is always a popular one with the children, as well as a water fight, the leavers' events and more pen pal work! I can't wait to get stuck into it all! As always, please just get in touch with me at school if you ever need anything, or if you have any questions or queries. The class email address is DTCYear6@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk.

TIMES TABLES AND SPELLINGS!

The children in Year 6 will continue to be set **weekly spelling homework on Seesaw** and, as always, should **read things that they love regularly** at home too. A reminder that reading includes a whole range of texts, such as newspapers, home reading books, magazines, comics or graphic novels. I would also **strongly encourage the children to use other sites they have access to, such as Times Table Rock Stars, Spelling Shed and Reading Plus at home**. We really saw the impact of the little extra time at home spent on these in the Autumn Term, but we need to keep it going, as one thing that slipped during the lockdown was basics like spellings and times tables. Just 15 minutes a day on each, on top of the time we give to them in school, will really help the children to improve. Being secure in these basics makes everything else in Maths and English so much easier and will really help the children with the move up to secondary school.

KEEP UP THE AWESOME WORK YEAR 6 AND LET'S GET TO THE TOP OF THE TT8S AND SPELLING SHED LEAGUES ONCE AGAIN!

Here's a copy of our timetable for this term, so you can see what we'll do each day. It might sometimes change!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
PE	History or Geography	PSHCE Votes for Schools	Science	RE or Computing



WORLD WAR TWO

What a topic we have this term: World War Two! This is always one of the topics that the children look most forward to and that they enjoy really getting stuck into as it is such a vast topic with so much to learn, discover and explore. It is even better this year as with such a mature group of Year 6 children, we are going to tackle some of the more grown-up parts of the war, such as The Holocaust; this will tie in well with our work on Judaism last term and our class novel, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas. We'll also be learning more about the causes of the war, how the Nazis came to power, The Battle of Britain, The Blitz as well as some of the key figures in the war, such as Winston Churchill, Adolf Hitler and Franklin D Roosevelt. We're also often very lucky that the children have relatives who lived through the war, or artefacts and items from the war, such as gas masks. If you have any of these at home, we'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch with me on the class email address DTCYear6@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk

I hope you love the topic Year 6!





LOVING READING!

We are continuing to do a lot of work in school on encouraging a **LOVE** of reading in the children, whether it be through Book Club lessons, choosing texts the children will really enjoy in reading lessons and setting aside time every day for the children to tuck into books by authors they love. We send out a fortnightly Parent Mail to get your views on what books and authors your child likes and how often they read; it also gives you a chance to raise any queries or questions with us. The Parent Mail is sent out every other Friday and it really helps us to support your child in school if it is completed, so please get involved!

PE KITS

Our PE Day this year is MONDAY. A reminder that on Mondays, the children will need to **COME TO SCHOOL WEARING THE CLOTHES THEY WILL USE FOR PE.** Hopefully the weather will start to warm up now, but layers of clothing would still be best for PE in case the weather changes during the lesson.



FOOTWEAR

The children need to come to school EVERY DAY in sensible, active footwear. This is because even on days we do not have our PE lesson, we will **really** be encouraging taught, active playtimes like we did last term. We really saw an impact on the children's fitness levels through doing this and want to keep it up!

OUR NEW CLASS NOVELS

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS THE BOY IN THE TOWER

Just like last term, we are going to be reading two class novels in the Summer - The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by Joh Boyne, to tie into our World War 2 topic, followed by The Boy in the Tower, by Polly Ho-Yen. The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas focused on the story between two boys, Bruno and Schmucl, who find their lives turned upside down by the events of World War Two. Many of the children may have seen the film based on the book and will know that Bruno is the son of German officer, while Schmucl is imprisoned in one of the Nazi concentration camps, not that either boy realises that's where they are. It is a really heart wrenching and powerful story about children's incredible ability to overcome the toughest of times and how friendship can be found in the most unlikely of places. The Boy in the Tower tells the story of Ade, a boy living in the tower block in London with his Mother. Ade begins to experience and see strange things taking place in the streets of London and sets out to find out what is going on. The story deals again with mature themes that link to our PSHCE work last term on mental health and will really help the children to understand themselves and others even more.

CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP

Each week, the children can earn **POINTS** for showing different learning and life skills, with the person who earns the most by Friday afternoon becoming **CLASS CHAMPION**. The Year 6 children did brilliantly with this last term and the race to be champion was always very competitive. This term, we are going to focus especially on our **TEAMWORK** and **RESILIENCE** skills, which are about never giving up, but also about setting a brilliant example to the rest of the school for younger children in our school to follow..

Excellent basic hygiene is going to continue to play a massive role in school in this term again, so we have frequent hand-washing and sanitising breaks in our class timetable. On top of this, the children also need to make sure that they sneeze or cough into their elbow, before then washing their hands. **PLEASE REINFORCE THIS MESSAGE AT HOME, SO THAT WE CAN ALL BE HAPPY AND SAFE IN SCHOOL!**

THE 6 STEPS OF HAND WASHING



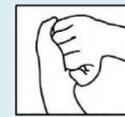
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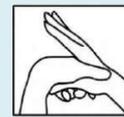
THE BACK OF THE HANDS



IN BETWEEN THE FINGERS



THE BACK OF THE FINGERS



THE THUMBS



THE TIPS OF THE FINGERS

SECONDARY TRANSITION

A reminder that SATs Week for the Year 6 children is not taking place this year after the government cancelled all exams this summer following the school closures last term. I have had a few parents contact me about how this will impact on transition to secondary school and with some other secondary school related questions.

Even when the SATs do happen, I always either have phone calls, or complete paper documents, to inform the children's new schools about what they are like as a person, as well as how they are doing academically. This will still happen this year and your child's secondary school will then use this information to plan tutor groups and any classes that use 'sets' in Year 7. In many ways, it's fairer, as your child will be placed into classes based on all their work in Year 6 and not based on how they would have done in one test on one day during SATs week.

As far as physical transition days, it looks unlikely that these will be able to take place this year, but the secondary schools have put alternative arrangements in place. Whitworth Park have begun running weekly transition Zoom live lessons for those children going there and the other secondary schools have said they are in the process of arranging similar events. If anything changes and physical transition days can happen, you will be informed.

Your child's secondary school will also be in touch with you in due course to arrange things such as uniform orders and to gather information about your child, such as current addresses and phone numbers.

ASKRIGG 2021 UPDATE

A reminder that at the moment, the Askrigg residential visit for Year 5 and 6 is still going ahead from 7th - 11th June 2021 and full payment for the visit needs to be received before the visit takes place. The balance can be paid in instalments if you find this easier and a Parent Pay has been set up for you to be able to do this. As we have said previously, it is possible that the trip could be cancelled if government guidance around residential visits changes, but in such an event you would receive a full refund of any money you have paid. We will let you know as soon as we know about any future developments!