

**Welcome to Year 6**  
**Spring Term Newsletter**  
**Year 6 Team:**  
**Mr Theakston and Mrs Cullen**



**RECEPTION PEN PALS!**

The Year 6 children should be incredibly proud of the excellent start they made last term as pen pals to the Reception children. This is the fourth year that we have run the pen pals scheme in school and this class have been right up there with the best classes at it so far. Their generosity and kindness played a huge role in helping the youngest children in our school to settle in. We aim to have a pen pal get together each half term and so we've planned a few for this term

- The re-arranged pen pals pantomime visit is on 7th January
- A teddy bear picnic before the Easter break
- A shared PSHCE lesson in Year 6.

**WHERE WE ARE INSPIRATIONS EVERY DAY!**

Welcome back from the Christmas break! I hope that all of the Year 6 children and their families were able to enjoy a restful and fun break, even if it was all a little strange this year. I cannot wait to get back into class with the children and pick up where we left off. They made a cracking start to life in Year 6 last term and stepped up so well to what being in Year 6 means, especially in their roles as pen pals to the Reception children! Their attitudes and desire to learn were excellent from day one and we need to get even better this term. It should be easy, as we have some awesome topics lined up this term - The Wild West is always a favourite! 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@tudhoeprimary.co.uk](mailto:DTCYear6@tudhoeprimary.co.uk).

**TIMES TABLES AND SPELLINGS!**

The children in Year 6 will continue to be set **weekly spelling homework** 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 last term, but we need to keep it going. 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. Time tables are the biggest focus this term as there are still a number of children who do not know them by heart, something which makes accessing the Year 6 Maths curriculum significantly harder.

**OUR WEEK**  
 This will sometimes change.

**MONDAY**  
**PE and Maths**

**TUESDAY**  
**Science**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Music and PSHCE**

**THURSDAY**  
**RE or Computing**

**FRIDAY**  
**Humanities**

**AMERICA AND THE WILD WEST**

Our topic this term is one that the children have always loved in the past - North America and the Wild West! In our geography work, we will be learning more about some of the most well-known locations and landscapes in the USA, We will be creating our own Year 6 American Road Trip and the children will be able to choose to visit and learn about the places that interest them most, from huge cities such as New York and Los Angeles, to natural wonders like Death Valley and The Grand Canyon. In History, we will learn more about a fascinating period in American history - The Wild West. The topic gives us the chance to learn more about Native American culture, why so many people emigrated to the USA at that time and the conflict between the Native Americans and the new settlers in the USA. We will also learn more about some famous outlaws, such as Jesse James and Billy the Kid, as well as the impact of slavery in the USA. This is probably my favourite topic to teach in the whole of Year 6, so I hope the children love it too!





## YEAR 6 READING LEADERS!

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. The school is also investing a lot of money in buying new books to stock up new school library area with! Miss Boustead is always on the lookout for new books to add to the library and has already recruited a group of Year 6 children already to help her select and buy nearly 100 graphic novels for the area. There'll be more jobs for Year 6 children on the way soon!

### PE KITS

**Our PE Day this term is MONDAY.** A reminder that on Mondays, the children will need to **COME TO SCHOOL WEARING THE CLOTHES THEY WILL USE FOR PE.** As we enter the winter months, it is going to get colder out there, so it is essential the children wear appropriate clothing. Layers are usually the best option.



### 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 FIRST CLASS NOVELS

#### HOLES

#### THE BOY WITH THE BUTTERFLY MIND

Just like last term, we are going to be reading two class novels in the Spring - Holes by Louis Sachar, an author some of the children will know from Book Club in Year 5, followed by The Boy with the Butterfly Mind, by Victoria Williamson. Holes tells the story of Stanley, a boy sent to a Juvenile Detention Facility for a crime he did not commit. Once there, he is surrounded by a mixture of nasty and supportive staff and misunderstood or genuinely dangerous inmates. The novel tells the journey Stanley must go on to not only survive there, but discover who he really is. The Boy with the Butterfly Mind is a recently released book and is brand new to Year 6 this year. It tells the story of two children - Jamie and Ellie - who both go through parental separations, before their single parents then start a new relationship with each other. The novel explores the story from both their points of view, alternating from one to the other, making it a great book to help us explore understanding other people, showing empathy and supporting each other.

### 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 became increasingly competitive as more and more children stepped up to what being in Year 6 means. This term, we are going to focus especially on our **TEAMWORK** and **DESIRE** skills, which are all about working together and wanting to improve ourselves all the time.

Excellent basic hygiene is going 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



PALM TO PALM



THE BACK OF THE HANDS



IN BETWEEN THE FINGERS



THE BACK OF THE FINGERS



THE THUMBS



THE TIPS OF THE FINGERS

## SATS WEEK

Monday 9th May 2022

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Test

Tuesday 10th May 2022

Reading Test

Wednesday 11th May 2022

Arithmetic Test

Reasoning (problem solving) Test A

Thursday 12th May 2022

Reasoning (problem solving) Test B

A reminder that SATs Week for the Year 6 children is scheduled to take place in the week beginning Monday 10th May 2021. We continue to plan and prepare in school on the basis that the tests will go ahead this year. The children have completed a number of practice tests in reading and arithmetic already this year, which I have used to judge what we need to work on in class. There will be an information meeting about the SATs in the next few weeks, which will give

you the chance to learn more about how the tests work and what you can do to support your child at home in the run-up to the tests in May. They'll be here before we know it!

### RESIDENTIAL 2022

A reminder that before the Christmas break, Mr Smith sent out a letter to see how many children would be interested in going on the Year 5/6 residential in July 2022. This visit is going to be going ahead, so a reminder that if you signed your child up for this, you are able to make payments by instalment over the coming months, so long as payment is made in full before the trip. Mr Smith has also asked me to remind all the children that attendance on the residential is dependent on good behaviour in school.