

# Welcome to Year 6

## Summer Term Newsletter

**Year 6 Team:**  
Mr Theakston and Mrs Cullen

We have a student teacher from Durham University, Mr Atkinson, continuing to work in our class this term.



## PEN PALS UPDATE!

The Year 6 children continue to make fantastic pen pals to the Reception children in our school, looking after them and mentoring them so well. A number of the children in Reception really improved their behaviour last term and Year 6 played a role in this. Miss McGillivray has also had several parents of Reception comment on how fantastic Year 6 are with them - one even witnessed children from our class looking after the younger children at the park after school! We have several pen pal events lined up for this term:

- A Pen Pals Party to celebrate the end of SATs
  - A farewell picnic/games afternoon in July
- Keep up the brilliant pen pals work Year 6!

## 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, 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. The summer term is always my favourite in Year 6, with so many exciting trips, events and leavers' events planned. The Year 6's attitudes and desire to learn have been 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@tudhocollery.co.uk](mailto:DTCYear6@tudhocollery.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. Even those children who do know them can quickly forget them, or at least get slower, if they do not work on them regularly.

### **OUR WEEK**

This will sometimes change.

**MONDAY**

**PE**

**TUESDAY**

**Science**

**WEDNESDAY**

**PSHCE and V4S**

**THURSDAY**

**RE or Computing**

**FRIDAY**

**Humanities**

## **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@tudhocollery.co.uk](mailto:DTCYear6@tudhocollery.co.uk)

We will finish our North American work before starting this topic.





# YEAR 6 READING REMINDERS!

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 - literally thousands of pounds. Just a reminder that your child should be bringing their class library book into school with them every day. This ensures we can keep track of what they are reading and allows them to read in in any spare moments in the day.

## 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 summer months, hopefully it is going to get a lot warmer and we will not need to wrap up quite as warm as we did last term!



## 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 SUMMER CLASS NOVEL

A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

### WHEN THE SKY FALLS

Our class novel this term is a really brilliant story called When the Sky Falls. It tells the story of 12-year old Joseph, a boy growing up as World War Two ravages the world around him. His Dad has been enlisted to fight, his mother has passed away and he is sent to London to stay with a carer, right as The Blitz begins. He stays with Mrs F, who runs the local zoo and is trying to protect the animals there as the war escalates. Joseph develops a bond with a gorilla, called Adonis, who one day escapes the zoo. The novel is based on true events and uses the setting of World War Two to test each of the main characters' strengths and weaknesses. We will also be reading The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas first, a famous book that tells the story of Bruno, a young German boy sent away from Berlin to a new home, where he meets Schmueel, a Jewish boy trapped in a Nazi concentration camp.

## 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 **RESILIENCE** and **CHOICES** skills, which are all about never giving in and realising the impact our choices can have.

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 now right around the corner and then we are done with them for good! We are into the final push now with two weeks to go.

As you will know from the parent meeting held back in February, the best ways you can support your child in getting ready are to read with them daily, work on times tables and to make sure they complete their spelling homework. It would also be a huge help if you could always ensure your child

arrives in school on time. We do daily arithmetic practice from 8:40 - 9.00am, something your child will miss if they do not arrive until 9am.

**Let's smash this Year 6 and then the fun can begin!**

## FORD CASTLE RESIDENTIAL

**11th July - 15th July 2022**

A reminder that our residential visit to Ford Castle is rapidly approaching and before we know it, we will be in that bus! Payment must be made in full for the visit before we go and you can pay in instalments if you prefer to do this. A parent information meeting, where we will take you through how the visit will run and answer any questions, will be held later in the term. More details will follow about this meeting on Parent Mail.