

Welcome to Year 6

Autumn Term Newsletter

Year 6 Team:

Mrs Pickard and Mrs Cullen

Welcome back from the Summer break! It was so great to see you all back in school again today and hope that you had a fantastic first day in Year 6! We have some awesome topics lined up for you in Year 6, as well as some wonderful trips. You'll get extra responsibilities and opportunities in Year 6 that you won't have had before, as well as being able to take part in some of the best Tudhoe 30 experiences in the school! We are so excited to see what the year brings for us all!

If you ever need any help, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at the school, or on the class email address, which is

DTCYear6@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk

WE ARE INSPIRATIONS EVERY DAY!

RECEPTION PEN PALS!

Being a Pen Pal to the new Reception children has become a tradition at the school and we are delighted it is back this year! Each of the Year 6 children will be given a pen pal in Reception in a few weeks. We will write letters to each other, but also go on trips together with our pen pals. We have found that this scheme really helps the Year 6 children to become more responsible and become the role models we need them to be in school. We also hope to be able to work with elderly members of the local community too, something which further helps our Year 6 children to see their place in the world and to respect people from all backgrounds. We've already written to our pen pals today to welcome them to their new school!

TIMES TABLES

Please help at home!

Being able to recall all of your times tables up to 12 x 12 is a vital skill in Year 6 and something that underpins so many of the topics we cover in Maths. It is essential that the children continue to practice these every day - even just 5 minutes a day will make a massive impact. It really is that daily, bitesize practice that makes all the difference and will help massively in lessons.

Autumn Term Topics

History - Vile Villains

Geography - North America

Science - Evolution and inheritance and light

RE - What do we know about Christianity?

PSHCE - How can we keep healthy as we grow?

D and T - Textiles

Art - Clay fruit pinch pots and Cubism

PE - Football and Indoor athletics

Music - How does music connect us to the past?

How does music bring us together?



PE KITS

Our PE Day this year is Thursday. A reminder that on Thursdays, the children will need to **COME TO SCHOOL WEARING THE CLOTHES THEY WILL USE FOR PE**. For as long as we can, these PE lessons will take place outside, so it is vital that the children wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather each week.

Please also ensure that the children have a water bottle in school with them everyday. This helps them to stay hydrated throughout the day and continue to maintain concentration into the afternoon.

Swimming will be in the summer term and more information will be sent out about this closer to the time.

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 be encouraging taught, active playtimes as we have over the last few years.



CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP

Just like Year 5, the **class championship** will still run each week. However, now that the children are in Year 6, the expectation is even higher! 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 skills are the same as the ones worked on in Year 5, but being in Year 6, the expectation of how well these things are done will be higher. **TEAMWORK** is especially important as in Year 6, we have to set the best example we can to the younger children!

OUR FIRST CLASS NOVEL

Storm Keeper's Island by Catherine Doyle

The story follows Fionn Boyle, who, after arriving on the magical Arranmore Island, discovers his grandfather is the island's Storm Keeper. Fionn, who is afraid of the sea and grieving his father, must embrace his destiny to become the new Keeper, wielding the island's magic to protect it from a rising dark force and ancient war. He learns to control storms and revisit island history through magical candles, embarking on a journey of self-discovery and courage as he prepares to battle the sinister magic threatening his home.

BLOOMSBURY

SATS WEEK 2026

There will be a parent information meeting about SATs in the Spring Term where we take you through how the tests work and what you can do to support at home in order to prepare your child for their tests.

Monday 11th May

Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation Test

Tuesday 12th May

Reading Test

Wednesday 13th May

Arithmetic Test and Reasoning A (Maths)

Thursday 14th May

Reasoning B (Maths)

BEING A YEAR 6 PEN PAL!

Having the chance to be a Pen Pal to one of the Reception children is probably the thing the children get most excited about doing in Year 6 and they are right to be so excited. Not only do we write to each other, but we also do loads of lovely events together throughout the year, such as trips to the pantomime. Last year's Reception children even starred in the Leavers' Assembly! It is a wonderful thing to be a part of in Year 6 and teaches the Year 6s so much about responsibility, leadership and kindness. Being a pen pal to the Reception children can also be challenging at first and is a huge responsibility, so this handy guide is designed to give you some tips on how to be the best pen pal you can be!

REMEMBER THEY ARE ONLY 4

When they first start, the Reception children are still so young; on top of this, they will be very scared and nervous. They need you to be calm, quiet and to get on their level. Crouch down with them and join in with what they are playing. This also means you must be a role model as such young children will copy your behaviour; we want them copying from the very best.

Having a pen pal is dependent on your own behaviour being exemplary as we cannot risk such young children learning to behave badly. You will not have a pen pal if we cannot trust you.

BE PATIENT

It might take a while for your pen pal to gain confidence, so be patient. If they are very shy at first, this is not because you are doing anything wrong. Help them to be more confident by asking them what they like playing and playing that with them.

SUPPORT THEM ALL

Although you will have a pen pal that is given to you to look after, this does not mean that you can only play with them. Play with and support all of the children in Reception. There will be some who love the same things you do; you just need to find them.

SUPPORT THEM EVERYWHERE

The best Year 6 Pen Pals realise that their job as a role model and friend does not only happen when we do events with Reception. Be there for them all the time, whether it is in the dinner hall, playing outside at breaks or even outside school. Every year, we hear some wonderful stories from parents of children in Reception about how Year 6 children saw their pen pal at the park and played with them there, or bumped into them at the shops and were a friend to them there too.

CHALLENGE THEM

It can be easy when your pen pal is so small to let them get away with misbehaviour, but don't. If your pen pal is not behaving, politely remind them how to behave otherwise they will think that it is ok to misbehave. If they are still not listening to you, then go and get an adult. You'll plan a massive role in teaching your pen pal what great behaviour looks like.