



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

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!

PE AND SWIMMING

Our PE Day this year is **Thursday**. A reminder that on Thursdays, the children will need to **COME TO SCHOOL WEARING THEIR PE KIT**. PE kit is as follows:

- A plain red t-shirt and a red school jumper/ cardigan/ zip-up
- Plain black / grey bottoms (Shorts, joggers or leggings)
- Trainers
- Long hair must be tied up and earrings removed or covered.

Year 6 will also be swimming for the first half term, starting on **Friday 11th September**. Children will need:

- a costume/ shorts
- A towel
- A swimming hat (which can be purchased from Arbor for £2)
- Goggles are allowed, but are not essential.

If, for any reason, your child can not swim on a particular day, school must be contacted via the school office or class email to notify staff as to the reason why.

Class novel this term:

Boy with the Butterfly Mind

By Victoria Williamson

Jamie and Elin's worlds collide unexpectedly when their families are blended together. Abandoned by his Mum who can't cope anymore with his ADHD, Jamie moves in with his Dad and Elin's family, ruining her already fractured life.

They are the complete opposite in every way, but what they both don't realise is that inside, they both desperately want the same thing: a return to normal family life.

FOOTWEAR

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 play-times 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!

TIMES TABLES - Please help at home!

Being able to recall all of your times tables up to 12×12 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.

SATS WEEK 2027

Please find below a list of the dates that the SATs will take place next year.

There will be a parent information meeting about SATs in the Spring Term where I will 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. More information will be given about this after Christmas. In the meantime, please take a note of these dates.

Monday 10th May

Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation Test

Tuesday 11th May

Reading Test

Wednesday 12th May

Arithmetic Test and Reasoning A (Maths)

Thursday 13th 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.