



St Catherine's School
Haslewood Avenue
Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire
EN11 8HT
Acting Headteacher:
Mrs Devonshire

Curriculum Information Newsletter – Year 6
Autumn Term – 2023

Dear Families,

We hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It has been wonderful having the children back in school and so far we have been delighted with the children's attitudes towards learning. The teachers in Year 6 are Mr Fitch, Ms Maud and Mrs Waring and we are looking forward to the year ahead. The school day starts with the register at 8:50am and we expect year 6 children to be at their desks, in the correct school uniform and ready to learn by this time each day.

We hope this letter provides you with some key information about the coming term.

English

Literacy lessons will be linked to our topic of World War II. We have some exciting lessons planned which will both develop children's knowledge of grammar and sentence structure whilst using a range of high quality and ambitious vocabulary to keep a reader engaged.

After half term, we will be writing to entertain by producing stories and publishing a class book, as well as writing to persuade by first studying famous speeches given by influential public figures.

Maths

This year, maths lessons will continue to be engaging and linked to real life situations as much as possible, as well as challenging children and become excellent problem solvers. We use a combination of the Maths No Problem scheme and the NCETM materials to resource lessons and deepen mathematical understanding across the school. We will start by looking at place value and numbers between 100,000 and 10,000,000. In the coming term, the children will then apply this knowledge to the four operations (+ - ÷ x).

Reading

Reading is vital as it not only opens up a world of wonder and stimulates the mind but has also been proven to: improve comprehension skills; reduce stress; improve knowledge of the world around us; expand vocabulary; and improve punctuation use, memory, focus and concentration. Children will be bringing home a book that they are expected to read at least 3 times a week. Please support your child by reading with them and discussing their book regularly. As with last year, Year 6 children will not have a home-reading journal. Instead, they will independently record their thoughts and opinions on the books they have read in a reading journal that will be kept at school.

In addition to this, children will take part in daily guided reading sessions in school and will be exposed to a wide variety of text types by a diverse range of authors.



Let your light shine



Science

In science this term, we are learning all about the human heart. We will study the circulatory system and how our heart supplies oxygen to our cells. We will also think about diet and exercise and how we can keep our hearts healthy.

History/Geography

During the first Autumn half term, we will be delving into the fascinating history of World War II. Throughout their learning, the children will build their knowledge of some of the significant events during WWII including evacuation, the Blitz, the Battle of Britain, D Day, the Holocaust and many more. Children will be reading and writing about WWII as well to provide them with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the war.

After October half term, our geography focus will be on deserts. The children will learn the locations of the largest deserts, the physical features found in deserts, the characteristics of hot deserts, and how human activity may threaten desert environments.

Religious Education

During the first part of the Autumn term, Year 6 will be learning about Humanism and specifically try to answer the question, 'Why do humanists say that happiness is the goal of life?'

After October half term, our R.E. lessons will focus on the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus when we think about the question, 'What would Jesus do?'

Design and Technology

This term we are studying playground equipment and then designing and building new structures for playgrounds. We start this topic with a trip to two playgrounds to look at existing equipment to see how we could improve and enhance it.

Music

This term we will be learning a song – from the lyrics to the instruments and orchestration – we will look at how a song is put together and finally we will perform it.

French

We will continue French lessons and build on the vocabulary and learning of past years.

Swimming

Swimming will continue throughout September on Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure children are sent in with: swimming costume, a towel, a swimming hat, sliders and goggles if required.

PE

P.E lessons will take place on Wednesday afternoons. It is essential that children come into school on Wednesday wearing a full PE kit (including well-fitting trainers). A list of P.E kit can be found on the school website and replacement kits can be ordered via the office. If your child is unable to take part in P.E for any reason, please contact the school office so they can let the class teacher know.



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Lunchtimes

As we would like to use all of our outdoor space for play all year round, we would ask that children bring in a pair of **named** wellies/sturdy boots/trainers that can be kept at school for use at lunchtime. They will also need a light-coloured waterproof coat or jacket as we are likely to be outside in all weathers!

Homework

Homework will be set each Friday and expected to be completed by the following Thursday. This year, the following homework will be set each week: 15 games on Times Table Rockstars, activities related to their spelling words and completing online grammar and punctuation work on SPAG.com. Spellings will be tested in the form of dictations in class.

Please support children with their homework where required and encourage them to complete it on time in preparation for next year.

We are excited to be back at school and to start working with your children. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support this year. If you have any questions or queries at any point, please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office.

Mr Fitch, Ms Maud and Mrs Waring