

Year 6 Autumn Term 2026 Newsletter

Welcome!

The Year 6 team would like to warmly welcome you and your child to Year 6! We trust you've had a chance to recharge over the summer and are excited to begin this new chapter.

The children have had a great start to the term, impressing us with the studious attitude and warm welcome they have offered each other. We very much look forward to watching them flourish and mature academically and personally, making the most of their new responsibilities in Year 6, and we look forward to supporting them on that journey.

Ashwell Learning Journey Topic

Our class topic this term will be based on Ancient Greece, learning about Greek democracy, the battles between the city states of Athens and Sparta, as well as investigating modern-day Greece and exploring the legacies of the people of Ancient Greece. We will also explore the famous Greek Gods and Goddesses, traditional Greek myths, Aesop's fables and famous battles such as the Legend of Troy and The Battle of Marathon. We are then very excited to then immerse ourselves in our Greek Day with our visiting 'History off the page' workshop – details to follow.

English

Our English work this term will involve writing for purpose based upon the following texts:

- *Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror* by Chris Priestley
- *Short Too!* by Kevin Crossley-Holland
- *Planetarium* by Raman Prinja and Chris Wormell
- *Professor Astro Cat's Frontiers of Space* by Dr Dominic Walliman and Ben Newman
- *Wisp* by Zana Fraillon and Graham Baker-Smith
- *Talking History* by Dr Joan Lennon and Dr Joan Haig English

The first two books will be used to teach the children how to write effective story-telling with appropriate mood and atmosphere. Following that, the children will create a non-chronological report, another narrative unit of writing and finally this term, a persuasive piece of writing. Grammar and spelling lessons are integrated into each unit.

Mathematics

We will start the term reviewing place value, recapping the basics of reading, writing, ordering and comparing large numbers followed by rounding number, problem solving and understanding how to calculate negative numbers.

We will complete a range of mental maths skills this term to build on their fluency of number across all areas and investigate the most efficient mental and written maths strategies. Children will also continue their weekly arithmetic tests. Results are analysed carefully, and gaps in knowledge are quickly addressed to ensure children make progress week-on-week.

Every Friday, Mrs Clark will post the '**Peek at the Week**' on google classroom to inform you and your child about activities, new spelling rules to practise and homework information. This will also be emailed to you from Mr England each week.

Other Core Subjects

Science: During the first half of the term, we will complete a unit of learning around 'Animals Including Humans', which will cover functions of the circulatory and digestive systems and the effects of diet and exercise on the body. In the second half term, children will plan and carry out their own pulse rate investigations and will study the possible effects of drugs and alcohol on the body. Much of the work we will cover will include links to practical science skills and involve science demonstrations as well as practical tasks.

Computing: The first series of lessons will cover Computing Systems and Networks. The children will learn about the advances in computing made at Bletchley Park and discover more about the History of Computers this term. Then follows our Exploring AI unit: how it generates text, images and code, how to create and refine prompts to improve AI responses while also considering the ethical implications of AI and its potential to replace human roles.

PE: On Fridays, we will have gymnastics in the first half term and then Netball skills in the second half term. Premier Sports will teach Tennis in the first half term on Thursdays and multi-skills (sports activities to develop agility, balance, co-ordination) in the second half term.

PSHCE: During the first half term, our area of learning is called 'My Healthy Self' and is concerned with building healthy habits that help us take care of ourselves and others. In the second half term, we will cover 'Connecting with Others', which will cover how to develop confidence and resilience through goal-setting and respectful choices. Online safety will also be taught in PSHCE.

RE: We will study aspects of the religions of Christianity and Judaism, looking at beliefs, practices and key events, symbols and artefacts, and discuss the significance of identity and belonging for Christian and Jewish people.

French: This term we will learn French phrases relating to being at school and healthy living. We will also cover pronunciation and expression and learn some regular verb forms.

Music: This term begins with exploring dynamics, pitch, and texture through Mendelssohn's Fingal's Cave. Later, we will study how dance music is created, using loops and reworking a well-known song into our own versions.

Art: children will be exploring photography and experimenting with different techniques to make creative images.

DT: We will create patterns and make a bag for a specific user, making sure it is both attractive and practical.

General Messages

PE days are Thursdays and Fridays. All children must have their PE kit in school on these days. This is to include indoor and outdoor clothes and outdoor trainers (different to those they wear to school please). They also need a water bottle. Earrings must be removed or covered.

Please help your child to arrive promptly in the mornings at 8:40am, so they are ready to start their morning work at 8.45am.

We will regularly post on Google Classroom to enhance the curriculum and add further opportunities for children to complete homework related basic skills practice. Please continue to familiarise yourselves with GC and encourage children to access it independently and frequently.

Throughout the year, we will be providing opportunities for each child to further develop their independence skills. This will prepare the children for life next year, as they move to secondary school. We'd love your support in helping the children take ownership of little routines, whether it's PE kits or punctuality, as these habits make them feel capable and independent. Thank you.

We look forward to a fun-filled and enjoyable term of learning.
Best wishes, Mrs Clark, Miss Allworth and Mrs Whiteley.