



# Year 6 Deer Class Newsletter

## Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term and a new class. I hope you and the children have enjoyed a restful summer holiday and that they are ready for the great opportunities and exciting challenges that the year will bring. I am really looking forward to the special year ahead, working with your children as they embark on their final year at primary school. In terms of staff arrangements, I will be teaching in Year 6 for the whole week, with the exception of Thursday mornings, when Mrs Berry will be teaching RE, computing and French this term. Mrs Douglas will be our full time teaching assistant in Year 6.

As you know, Year 6 is an important year for the children in terms of securing their places at secondary school and taking their KS2 SATs assessments in May, but it will also be a year full of fantastic experiences and the chance to really grow as our oldest members of the school. They will work hard on all areas of the curriculum, but alongside this, we will be developing their independence, social and personal skills, and celebrating all that they do.

### Meet our Year 6 Team

#### Miss Holmes

I qualified as a teacher eleven years ago and taught for three years at another school in Year One, before becoming the Year Two class teacher here at Boughton, where I stayed for seven years. Last year I moved into Year 6, teaching KS2 for the first time, and I am looking forward to doing so again this year. Boughton is a very special place for me as I grew up in the village and attended the school as a child myself! When the opportunity arose to teach here, I jumped at the chance to become part of the team. I have a particular passion for teaching English, and am always determined to encourage children to develop a love of books, reading, writing and anything linked to their imaginations. I also love teaching history; really enjoy getting outside for PE, and like singing and music. Having taught this cohort of children when they were in Year 2, I know how lovely they are and I am excited to be teaching them again in Year 6! I am looking forward to watching them flourish in their final year at primary school.

#### Mrs Berry

I came to teaching later in my career after working in the hospitality industry and for local government. I have worked at Boughton now for 11 years after being asked to cover until Easter one year. I loved it so much that I'm still here! My own children have all been to Boughton and have happy memories of their time here. I enjoy maths and showing children how different approaches can give the same answer; trying to build children's confidence and independence is important to me. I have a passion for RE and enjoy digging deeper into life's questions with the children. It is great to watch their opinions and understanding of our multi-faith world increase.

#### Mrs Douglas

I have been a teaching assistant for 16 years and qualified as a HLTA 13 years ago. I have worked in or covered most year groups during my time at Boughton. I like all areas of the curriculum but I particularly enjoy history and have a maths specialism working with children with dyscalculia. I take great pride in seeing pupils both past and present flourishing. In my free time, I enjoy live music, theatre and sport.

## Curriculum Overview

With the aim of working in partnership with you to support your child's learning, the following provides a brief outline of the teaching and learning that will take place across the curriculum in Year 6 this term.

In **literacy**, we will start the term with some descriptive work, developing language for describing settings and writing the openings to stories, with a focus on building suspense. After the residential, we will make links between literacy and our World War Two history topic by studying the text 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. Within this unit of work, the children will be immersed in the story, reading extracts from the beginning of the book, and they will go on to write in role; plan, draft and write narratives about wartime evacuation; describe characters and settings; and write speeches announcing the outbreak of war. There will be a focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar within all writing in literacy lessons, as well as additional spelling and grammar sessions throughout the week. All children will be encouraged to read books of their choice at school and at home, and there will be regular guided reading sessions to develop a range of reading skills.

Our **maths** this term will include topics such as place value with numbers to 10,000,000; comparing, ordering and rounding numbers; values of decimal digits; multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000; conversion between units of measure; and co-ordinates in all four quadrants. There will be a strong focus on building quick, secure mental arithmetic skills, as well as developing reasoning and problem solving across different areas of maths.

Our whole school approach to **science** is to study many areas of the science curriculum in short bursts, so that topics can be revisited throughout the year, enabling children to continually build on previous learning. This term, we will explore topics such as adaptation and evolution; reproduction of plants and animal groups; life cycles of different animal groups; and the seven life processes for all living things.

Our **history** topic for terms one and two is 'World War Two', which I know many of the children are excited about already! We will approach the topic chronologically, learning about why the war broke out in 1939 and who was involved; the roles of Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill; the Dunkirk evacuations; the Battle of Britain; and the Blitz. The children will later learn about life on the home front, such as the role of women, the experiences for children and the life of ordinary people during the war. There will be many opportunities for cross-curricular writing, as well as making links with art and DT.

In **music** this term, the topic will explore 90s music, in which the children will hear and research influences, styles and musicians of the decade.

In **RE** we will be completing a unit answering the question: 'What matters most to Christians and Humanists?' The topic explores themes such as codes for living, right and wrong and Christian and non-religious values and morals. The nature of the RE curriculum allows the children many opportunities to ask questions, engage in discussions and reflect on their own beliefs in relation to religion.

Our **PSHE** unit is entitled 'How can we keep healthy as we grow?' and explores ideas about living a healthy lifestyle, physical and mental well-being, and risks associated with unhealthy habits.

In **computing** this term, the children will complete a short unit of work on basic coding skills, enabling them to make their own online games. We will then continue developing our coding skills through a range of activities on Purple Mash using 2Code. As part of our computing curriculum, we will also have lessons on aspects of online safety.

In **art**, we will make links with our work in history, in which the children will use the theme of the Blitz to produce skyline artwork. The artwork they produce will depict a London skyline during the Blitz bombing.

Our **PE** this term will include lessons on fitness, such as circuit training and cross country, and rugby invasion skills. The lessons will be taught on a **Wednesday and Thursday afternoon**, and your child can wear their PE kit into school on these days. If your child wears earrings, please ensure they are either removed or covered on PE days and that any long hair is tied back.

In **French** this term, we will be working on aspects of conversational French, such as greetings, personal information, colours, weather and so on. The children will complete lots of French speaking activities as well as basic written tasks.

## Home learning

This year, we would like the focus of homework to be primarily on reading, spellings and times tables. Home learning will commence for Year 6 in the week after our residential, but of course the children can start any reading or general spelling and times table practice before then.

**Reading:** Reading, and particularly building stamina for reading, is extremely important in Year 6, and I would urge the children to read for at least 15-20 minutes every day, or as often as they possibly can. If you can support and encourage this by sometimes listening to your child read, and recording any comments in their contact books, I would be very grateful. If the children read on their own, they can record this in their books themselves, and they are welcome to borrow books from our class and school library. I will be awarding a 'Reader of the Week' certificate every Friday, based on how much reading the children do at home and how they engage with reading at school.

**Spellings:** Your child will bring home a list of 10 spellings every Thursday to learn, which will be tested the following Tuesday. They can practise these spellings in whichever way works best for them, and the words should generally be familiar, as they will link to the work we have been doing in spelling sessions at school. If the children want to do any additional spelling practise, they might choose words from the Year 5&6 word list from the National Curriculum, which can be found here:

[https://cdn.oxfordowl.co.uk/2019/08/29/13/56/09/5a42eb6a-f57f-4dc4-a66e-bd4c5e27e4b7/SpellingWordList\\_Y5-6.pdf](https://cdn.oxfordowl.co.uk/2019/08/29/13/56/09/5a42eb6a-f57f-4dc4-a66e-bd4c5e27e4b7/SpellingWordList_Y5-6.pdf)

**Times Tables:** The children should be regularly practising times tables at home to support their learning in all different areas of maths. They should also work on any other mental arithmetic skills that we have covered at school, including all four operations. Assignments will be set on Maths Shed every Thursday to support children with rapid recall and mental arithmetic. Some useful websites include:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

We will not be sending homework books home this year, however if your child would like an exercise book in which to complete spelling or times table practice at home, these will be available for children who ask.

If your child wishes to do additional work at home, any research around our history topic on World War Two would support their learning at school. Additional work of this kind will always be praised and celebrated in class. Thank you in advance for your support with all aspects of the home learning.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September: Year 6 Well-being Walk at Blean Woods (*See separate letter*)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September: Year 6 Collaboration day at Davington School (*More information to follow*)

Monday 18<sup>th</sup>- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September: Hindleap Residential

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September: Individual photographs

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September: Fruit Run

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>/ Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>/ Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October: Parents Consultations

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October: End of Term 1

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October: Start of Term 2

## Hindleap Residential

I am aware that the residential probably seems very fast approaching! We are currently in the process of finalising all the details with the team at Hindleap and there will be further details following in a separate letter, including timings, a kit list and all you need to know about the week away. Please ensure any important medical information is completed in detail on the relevant forms prior to the trip.

I hope that this will be a happy, exciting and rewarding year for your child. Year 6 is an extremely busy year, full of hard work and great fun, and I am looking forward to working with the children, alongside you, to help them reach their full potential. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me on the playground or contact me via the school office.

Kind regards,

Miss Holmes