

Year 6 Parents' Handbook 2018-2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

The new school year is well underway and the children have made a great start to the year and made super first impressions. The purpose of this booklet is to introduce you to life in Year 6 and explain some of our processes and expectations; please take the time to read it and open a conversation with us if there are any questions at all.

Alongside Mr Munsie (Year 6 leader), Miss King & Miss Harrington, Mr Stockton will also be working with the Year 6 team teaching a maths booster intervention group. The PPA team who will be working with the children every Wednesday afternoon are: Mrs Picken in 6SM, Miss Stevenson in 6HK and Mrs Townson in 6VH. In addition, Mrs Blois will cover Mr Munsie's Year Group Leader release time every fortnight in 6SM.

Our LSAs (Learning Support Assistants) will be supporting in class and working with small focus groups where appropriate. Our LSAs are: Ms Wells, Mrs Carter and Mrs Watkins.

As teachers, we operate an open door policy and so if you would like to share successes and concerns regarding your child we are always available on the school playground at the end of each day. Alternatively you may be able to catch us before school by reporting to the school office first. You can also contact us via the phone by leaving a message in the office and we will endeavour to quickly return the call.

Home Learning



Home Learning work will generally be set on **Thursday** and collected in on the following **Tuesday**. Tasks are intended to last up to 1 ½ hours per week in preparation for the increased workload at secondary school. As we approach the end of year tests the amount of home learning will increase in order to prepare your child in the best way possible. If you find that it is taking considerably longer for your child to complete their work, please discuss this with the class teacher. This work is set so that the children can consolidate important skills at home and will always be relevant to work done in class. The home learning will also give you a good idea of the work that is being completed in school.

We always appreciate your support and encouragement with home learning and we hope that this continues over the next year. However, we believe that it is important that, as the children move closer to secondary school, they develop their independence and organisational skills. Therefore, where possible, children should be encouraged to find a sensible time to complete their work and do so independently and to the very best of their ability.

Children have been asked to ensure that the quality of work expected in school – using line guides, neat handwriting and not colouring in with felt tip pens or gel pens – is continued at home.

Should your child find home learning tasks difficult to complete at home or require resources from school, please encourage them to ask their class teacher on the Friday in order to give them time to complete the work. If for any reason your child is unable to complete the work on time, please send a note to explain why. If home learning is not finished and a reasonable explanation is not given, children will be expected to complete the work in their lunchtime. **Homework club is also available every Friday lunchtime.**



Reading

Reading is an important skill that all pupils need to develop. There are clear benefits from reading in order to develop pupils' vocabulary and understanding of various genres they will be expected to write.

The school library allows your child to borrow 2 books at once. It is recommended pupils borrow 1 fiction and 1 non-fiction book at the same time in order to broaden their reading experiences. Please encourage your child to regularly return their library book. Books should be returned or renewed every 2 weeks. Your child should have a reading book, appropriate for their level of reading, in school **every day**.

Your child is expected to read for 20 minutes at least 5 times in a week - if not more! As your child is now in the Upper School, it is their responsibility to maintain their reading journal in the home learning book (there is also a weekly task to complete). These tasks are designed to develop your child's comprehension skills and are linked to their weekly reading and if there is an opportunity to discuss these tasks at home then their understanding will be increased. Home learning books need to be handed in every **Tuesday** to be checked by the teacher.

Spellings

The Year 6 Spellings will be set on **Thursday** and tested on the following **Wednesday**. It is highly recommended that children write the spellings down at home so that they can be practised on Tuesday / Wednesday when the home learning book has been handed in.



Pupils' spelling ability varies and is an important focus area for the year group. As a consequence we intend to set spellings every week based on a common spelling rule or pattern, as well as collecting spelling errors from books over the week. At the start of a new spelling rule pupils will have an activity to complete in order to recognise the rule / pattern. They will then have 6 spellings to learn based on that rule and

There are various ways children can learn their spellings. Below is a series of activities you could try to find a strategy that suits your child's way of learning and make learning more fun.

1. Write the word in bright colours or bubble writing, underlining, highlighting or changing colour for the difficult parts.

E.g. library = library colourful = colourful February = February

2. Sound the word out aloud, emphasising the difficult part that cannot be heard.

(To add a bit of fun say the tricky part in a funny voice!)

E.g. Interesting = Int-er-est-ing Wednesday = Wed -nes-day

3. Write mnemonics for difficult words (where each letter forms a word that makes a sentence)

E.g. **BECAUSE** = **B**ig **E**lephants **C**an **A**lways **U**nderstand **S**mall **E**lephants

4. Look, Cover, Say, Write, Check – this involves looking at the word, covering the word, saying it aloud to hear the phonemes, write it out clearly, then check it against the original spelling. (Checking is an important part of the spelling process, so that children are able to identify the commonly mis-spelt parts)

5. Write sentences with spelling words. This will ensure they understand the word and can use it correctly, whilst developing their vocabulary.

E.g. Tudor: Not all **Tudor** children had an education.



PE

PE will take place on **Tuesday** and **Friday** each week. Please ensure that your child has suitable kit in school for these days as outlined in the school's policy available on the website. Earrings should always be removed for PE.

Healthy Snacks

It is our policy that children are only allowed to eat fresh and dried fruit and vegetables during break times. Children are not permitted to eat cereal bars or other snacks which may contain some dried fruit during break. Children must also ensure that they bring a **full** water bottle in to school each day and that they take their bottles home each night to be cleaned and refilled.



Expectations.

Our Year 6 motto is '**Raising the bar through our learning behaviours, effort and relationships**' From day one, we have explained to the children that the Year 6 staff have high expectations and that the children must set a positive example for the rest of the school. This includes ensuring that school uniforms are neat and that shirts are tucked in, jumpers are not tied around waists and suitable shoes are worn. We also expect the children to demonstrate a real 'have a go' attitude this year, from singing in assembly to volunteering to help with clubs, charity events and being prefects. We expect the very best from our Year 6 children and appreciate your help in encouraging them to stretch themselves and achieve what they are capable of in all aspects of school life.

Civic Award

Your child will have the opportunity to take part in the Civic Award Scheme this year. This involves becoming more involved with the community and taking part in a range of hobbies. Sarisbury Junior School has an excellent reputation for the large numbers of children who participate in this scheme. Children who take part must be committed and ensure that they keep clear records of all of the activities that they take part in. Please feel free to ask any questions; Miss King will be glad to assist.



SATs in Year 6

In May, the children will complete SAT papers for reading, punctuation, spelling and grammar, and maths. In November (**Thursday 15th November 6.30pm**) there will be a SATs information evening for parents where you can find out about the tests including: the tests your child will complete, a timetable for the week, how the tests are administered and how you are informed of the results.

Year 6 is a special time in a child's life and is often a time when they do a great deal of growing up and we are always there to support along every step of that journey for both your child and yourself. If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to get in contact; children always learn best in a context of partnership between school and home and we are keen to do whatever we can to help build those bridges. We look forward to working with you over the coming months and sharing the many highlights!

Kind regards, the Year 6 Team

Mr Munsie

Miss King

Miss Harrington