



Mrs Littlar, Miss Ebrey and Mr Brough wish you a very Happy New Year and a prosperous  
**2024**

**MORNING ROUTINE & ABSENCE!** Please note that we are now encouraging children to arrive at school for 8:45am to comply with new government guidelines on the length of the school day school. Y6 children enter the building through Classroom 4 and Y5 children enter through Classroom 3. Once children have organised their belongings, they are expected to enter the classroom promptly to begin their early morning activity. Registration closes at 9:00am, children arriving after this will be marked 'Late'. If your child is absent for any reason please telephone the school office before 9:30am.

### HOMEWORK

**Spellings** Years 5 and 6 play a Spelling Hive game every Thursday to check on their learning. Some spellings may seem challenging but you can encourage your child to spot the pattern in the letters and to play [Spelling Shed online](#) for extra practise. Do let the teachers know if you have any concerns.

**Reading books** are checked and changed regularly at school. Children are encouraged to take books home to complete, as many KS2 books can be quite long! Please continue to comment in your child's Home Reading Book as a form of home/school communication.



**Maths** - The Key Recall Facts (KIRFs) this half term are Money especially giving change, then, after half term, Time. It is important that children know the KIRFs thoroughly and are able to recall them quickly. Maths homework will be given out at the end of each week to be completed and returned either on or before the following Wednesday. Take time to read and note the 'Information sheet for parents' attached in the children's Maths homework book at the start of each half term.

It is vitally important for your child to access Times Table Rock Stars EVERY DAY. This is crucial to so many other areas of Maths. Use our school name for access and your child has their own username and pin.

We also would like the children to use NumberGym, an on-line Maths series. Your child has their own log-in details too. Please make sure they login using their own details that we can track their progress through the series.

Each child is able to access at different points, they can practice number bonds using the "Bond Builder" series and "Table Trainer" is exactly what it says in the title right up to 12 x 12 and including division facts too.

The Mental Maths Challenge section provides a mixed bag of a variety of calculation challenges. This progresses through Copper, Bronze, Silver, Gold, all the way to Platinum. Details of which to cover are on the Information for Parents sheet in your child's Maths homework books.

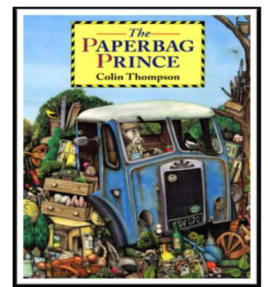
Homework isn't something to be done and stuffed back in to their bags and forgotten. Your child needs to remember the skills involved, 'a little and often is better than just a one off'.



**Rewards at School** - Children have their own reward chart where they record the "ticks" they earn for actions and attitudes that exemplify behaviour linked to our school values: Respect, Wisdom, Friendship, Endurance, Compassion, Service and Trust. They need to earn 20 ticks to fill a marble and they should aim to complete at least 3 marbles per half-term. Marbles across the school are also counted every half term to see which house wins the House Cup.

### What will your child learn this term

**English** - We follow the Literacy Company scheme "Pathways to Write." This term we will be reading *Arthur and the Golden Rope* by Joe Todd-Stanton and then, in Spring 2, *The Paper Bag Prince* by Colin Thompson. We will be working towards writing our own myth and then designing and writing a persuasive leaflet on the theme of pollution.



We will follow the "Pathways to Read" scheme on Wednesdays and Fridays, where we study texts in depth and work on comprehension skills. This term links with our Pathways to Write topic of Norse myths as we read Neil Gaiman's *Odd and the Frost Giants* and then a Literacy Company publication called *Pollution: a look behind the scenes*.

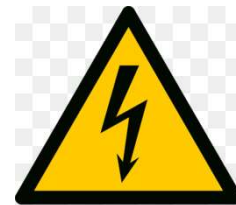


Our daily **Language Skills** sessions cover Spellings, Reading, Comprehension and Grammar and Punctuation.



The children will start off learning about fractions, especially equivalence of fractions and also addition & subtraction of fractions including mixed numbers. Y6 also learn about  $\times$  and  $\div$  with fractions. Later in the term, Y6 learn about algebra, forming expressions and equations and calculating unknown values. They will also be converting units of measure. Y5 will learn about formal methods for multiplication including long multiplication and also formal methods for division of numbers by a single digit. We use the White Rose Maths Scheme.

### Science -



Our Science topic for the Spring term is Electricity. On Thursday afternoons we will be learning all about where electricity comes from, how to make a variety of different circuits, and the differences between renewable and non-renewable energy. As always we will be incorporating some fun experiments and practical activities into our learning.

**Geography** – This term the Year 5's and 6's will be studying two geography topics:

North America and a European region. We will be looking at the physical and human geography as well as the animals of North America. We will then be looking at Europe as a whole before focusing in on Greece, its culture and climate. We use the Oddizzi scheme to enhance our learning.



**Art** - Y6 will begin by finishing the project creating 3D figures from 2D drawings using scaling up techniques. Later they will be creating layered portraits. Y5 will explore pattern tessellation and colour mixing. Later in the term they will study still life.

**DT** – The children will be getting technical this term linking in with their work in science, making working models and using a computer to control them. If time, they may also be making soups.

**RE** – Our two topics for the Spring term begin with the questions; **What matters most to Humanists and Christians?** and **What does it mean if Christians believe God is holy and loving?** Both topics involve the children in some deep thinking and they always amaze us with their thoughtful responses.

**PSHE** – Our topics this term are ‘Growing and changing’ and ‘Respectful relationships.’ After half term Year 6 will learn about human reproduction in their PSHE lessons (a letter containing more information will be sent out in a few weeks).

**French** – Our studies this term will focus on ‘The Tudors’ and then ‘At school’ after half term. We will learn key vocabulary and then build our understanding of grammar to form sentences both verbally and in writing.

**P.E.** This term the children will be having PE lessons on Wednesdays with Mrs Dillon and Fridays with Jack Fletcher. The themes will be Gymnastics & Hockey (Wednesdays) and Fitness & Cricket (Fridays).

Please ensure your child has a PE kit available at school every day. Please name all kit and send in a note or email if your child is unable to take part.

**House Activities** take place on three Thursday afternoons each term. Children from across all the classes join together in House groups to take part in exciting, themed outdoor activities. These are led by teachers, provide extra learning opportunities, foster a greater sense of community and, most importantly, are great fun!

The provisional dates for house activities are: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February; Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.



Thank you for taking the time to read through this information. We are here to support you whenever we can.

Please keep in touch via the email addresses below:

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