



and Year 6

We hope you have enjoyed an absolutely brilliant summer and you're ready for all that this new school year will bring! Making the most of the children's last year of primary education and equipping them with the confidence and skills to move on to secondary school is very much our priority and our curriculum and timetable has that very much in mind.

I am delighted to be starting here at Willow Brook and am excited to be sharing the teaching of Year 6 with Mrs Myring who will teach the class all day Monday and on Tuesday Mornings. Mrs Zawodniak covers our planning and assessment time on a Tuesday afternoon and I am in the classroom for the rest of the week. Whilst we have different elements of the curriculum to cover, we work together to plan, set targets and review progress. We are all looking forward to a busy, challenging and rewarding year ahead.

This letter should set out what is expected of a Year 6 child both at home and at school, as well as introducing the timetable and topics for the half term ahead. If your questions are left unanswered, please get in touch and I will be more than happy to give you further details.

This half term in the classroom

We begin the year with a history focus, looking into 'the *changing power of the monarchy*'. With Bosworth and the discovery of Richard III on our doorstep, our main topic this half term will be 'The Rise of the Tudors.' We will begin straight away by meeting some of the key characters from the House of York and Lancaster and through our future history afternoons we will learn all about the Battle of Bosworth and the reign of Henry VIII. We will be learning

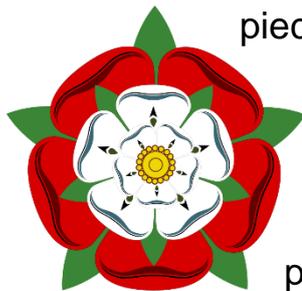


about the Tudor way of life as well as some of the plots and gruesome schemes of the monarchs. The whole study would not be complete without a trip to the battlefield at Bosworth which has been booked for Wednesday 11th October.

A computing focus for year 6 and the rest of the school this term (and whole year in fact) will be internet safety. The safety of the children at Willow Brook is our main priority and we feel in this ever growing and changing digital age it is of the utmost importance that we teach our children how to stay safe online, behave responsibly online and understand the risks. We want our children to be aware of these risks whilst getting the most they can out of the technology that is available to them as it is such an excellent learning tool.

In science, Mrs Myring will be kicking the year off with a study of living things. They will begin by classifying plants and animals using keys and flow diagrams and then move onto exploring the impact micro-organisms have on the lives of humans.

We will be sticking with a Tudor theme for our English and artwork this half term; studying a gripping text by Berlie Doherty called 'Treason' and we will create various pieces of work from this including diary entries, riddles, letters,



historical narratives and more. Of course, there will be plenty of grammar, spelling and handwriting during each week too. In our art lessons, we'll be sketching, designing and making clay Tudor roses as well as studying famous Tudor portrait artists who painted the monarchs first hand!

In maths this half term we will be brushing up on arithmetic and applying the strategies we know to more advanced problem solving. We will also be extending our understanding of place value of numbers up to ten million as well as decimals and negative numbers. Times tables continue to be an essential skill along with dealing with money, measuring, weighing and working through logic problems and puzzles – all of which you can talk about and explore at home – the more experience the better.

PE is officially timetabled for a Tuesday and Thursday. The children will require their full PE kits in order to participate in the exciting gymnastics and Drumba lessons planned for them. Please keep P.E. kits in school every day as sessions are sometimes moved due to various circumstances in a busy school and it is frustrating for children who don't have the right kit to take part!

Learning at home and helping your child get ready for the school day

There are three main strands to homework in Year 6 and making sure your child is prepared and completing the tasks to the best of their abilities is one of the biggest things you can do to help. The expectations of homework in Year 7 is demanding

and it is good for your child to get into the habit of being responsible for their own learning during this year.

The SATs spelling test carries a massive 20 marks and makes such an impact. Spellings are taught throughout the school and focus on specific patterns. The end test is simply based on those rules. The spelling championship that we use in Year 6 gives a competitive and thorough approach to learning our somewhat unpredictable language. Spellings will be introduced and taught each Thursday and tested the following Thursday. By differentiating the words given, everyone will work on the same pattern but compete in their own league. The first list of spellings and explanations will be with you next Thursday.

Each child will also belong to a guided reading group which will meet on a specific day of the week. The children will be given a reading response task after each teacher led session and the expectation is that they are completed at home before the group meets again. We have spoken to the children about the care expected when completing each task – it is a school book and should be written in and looked after as it would be in school. We would really appreciate your help in encouraging them to make this a priority. You may wish to assist your child with their reading tasks or they can attempt them independently depending on the confidence of your child. As well as having their group reading text they will also have an appropriate individual reading book and, again, this could be a book you share with your child or encourage them to read on their own. Willow Brook's recommended titles reward scheme will motivate the children to engage with age appropriate, challenging texts. Reading continues to be so important, and our aim is that pupils leave Willow Brook as enthusiastic and independent readers. The home tasks given are varied and are all designed to engage them more maturely in thinking about language and text.



There will also be a regular maths homework task set on a Friday and this should be handed in on the following Thursday. This is designed to keep you informed with what is being taught in class and allow your child to rehearse essential strategies. This will be stuck in a homework book so that feedback and responses can be more meaningful. Please get involved and let us know if more practice or explanation is required.

Year 6 is such an exciting and important year. There are lots of new ventures for them, from DARE to residential visits, clubs and opportunities for learning outside of school. Like all Year 6 classes that have gone before, the children will enjoy the privileges and responsibilities of being the eldest in the school as well as getting their teeth into new topics and systems. As I have said to them, this carries the

weight of being good role models around school – a duty I know they are keen to get right.

With so many important things occurring in this last year we would ask you to be aware of taking your child out of school during term time. Each half term has a highlight and each day delivers an essential part of the jigsaw. End of key stage SATs take place in May, crucial secondary school visits are spread throughout the year and taking the lead in their last school production in the week beginning 11th December is memorable and not to be missed!

Our first official Parents Evenings will be in the week starting 9th October but you are always welcome to come in if you need to see any member of staff. I will be in the playground at the beginning and end of most days for quick conversations or queries and if you require a longer discussion, please just ask.

Finally, but importantly, whilst we do not encourage children to have mobile phones in school, some parents feel happier if their children have them for reassurance if they are walking home on their own. If this is the case, we are happy as long as the phones are put in my desk at the start of each day and taken out at 3.30 pm. No mobile phones are to be kept in the children's bags or used on the premises without our consent.

Here's to a happy, positive and successful year both in and out of the classroom.

With best wishes,

Miss Morrow and Mrs Myring