



YEAR 6 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2024

Welcome to the start of a new school year! It has been so lovely to see the children back at school and we are really enjoying getting to know them all. This is our first newsletter to you and will inform you of any information you need for the term ahead, as well as clarifying the routines we have in place in Year 6. As always, the partnership between parents and the school is extremely important, so your support with everything detailed here is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to speak to us across the year should you have any questions or concerns; we are on the door at the start and end of every day.

Staff

The teaching staff are Jess Taylor and Fiona Tilley. Our teaching assistants are Nic Browning, Martine Taylor Donna Jones and Naomi Clare, who provide valuable support for the children and help to ensure good progress across the year. PPA in Year 6 will be covered by Miss Joy and Mrs Stevens. Mrs Stevens will also be covering Miss Taylor's class on a Tuesday.

Themes

All of our teaching is approached through cross curricular themes. This term we are going back in time as we explore the key events of World War Two in our *Lest We Forget* theme. Children have been given a fictional character and will follow their journey through the war each week. Discussions will be handled sensitively, and children will be given lots of opportunities to ask questions.

Dunkirk

As part of our World War 2 theme, we will be showing the children **the two-minute trailer** from the film Dunkirk, which was released in 2017. This will be as part of our wider work on the Dunkirk landings, exploring their significance in the war and the impact on those involved. As with everything else within this theme, this will be handled sensitively and time will be given to talk through any questions the children may have.

However, as the film is a 12A we thought we would send you the link to what we will be showing the children, so you can see the content. If you have any queries regarding this, please feel free to get in contact with one of us. For clarity, we are only showing the trailer, not the whole film.

Trailer link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=F-eMt3SrfFU>

Trip to Bewdley Museum

As you know, we are going on our visit to Bewdley Museum, where we will learn all about life on the Home Front and what it was like to be an evacuee. Miss Taylor's Class will be going on **Wednesday 11th September** and Mrs Tilley's Class will be going on **Thursday 12th September**. Excitingly, we have also been able to book a train ride from Kidderminster to Bewdley to give the children an authentic 1940's experience.

Please remember, the train ride is a secret, and we will tell them just prior to the trip!

On Wednesday 11th, Miss Taylor's class will be leaving school at 8.45 am so we ask that the children **arrive at 8.30 am** on the day of their trip. On Thursday 12th, Mrs Tilley's class will be leaving at 9.45, as their train is a little later. Both classes will be back before the end of the school day. Please ensure the children have a packed lunch, drink and snack with them. They will also need a coat. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, a packed lunch will be provided for them, but they will still need a snack and drink.

As a reminder, we have asked that the children dress in WW2 attire for the visit to create a more authentic experience. The outfit can then be used again as part of our VE celebration at the end of the theme. Costumes could include evacuees, members of the armed forces or land girls – see attached sheet. They do not have to be complicated: evacuees would have worn the equivalent of school shorts/trousers and a shirt for boys and a floral dress and cardigan for girls.

V.E. Day Celebration

To celebrate the children's fantastic work throughout our 'Lest we forget' theme, we will be holding a V.E. Day celebration on Friday 8th November. The children will be playing games from the 1940s, doing some 1940's crafts and listening to wartime music.

We are asking all children to dress up in wartime attire for this day (costumes ideas include evacuees, members of the armed forces or land girls – see attached sheet) and they should come to school in their outfit. This can be the same costume they have worn for the trip to Bewdley Museum. They will need lunch as normal on this day.

Remembrance Assembly

In addition to our VE Celebration, we will be marking Remembrance Day on 8th November. There will be a whole school assembly led by the Year 6s. Parents of children in Year 6 are invited to attend the assembly, which begins at 10.30am and will last just over half an hour, to incorporate the silence at 11am. Afterwards, parents are invited to stay and watch the children's lindy hop performance. We would love to see you there if you are able.

DT – Make Do and Mend

In addition, we will also be learning about 'Make Do and Mend' whereby the government encouraged citizens in WW2 to reuse, repurpose and repair old items of clothing. As part of our DT work, we are going to repurpose some old clothing into something new and are hoping you may have old, clean items of clothing/fabric which you wouldn't mind us cutting up. Please consider the type of material and how easy it is to sew – from experience, anything too shiny or stretchy has proved difficult! One or two items will be more than sufficient; please send them into school by **Friday 27th September**. Thank you!

Year 6 SATs Workshop

As you know, the children will be sitting their SATs this year. SATs are an important part of Year 6, but we believe it is even more important that children enjoy their final year of primary school and leave feeling ready for high school. We will do plenty of preparation in the lead up to the tests, but we ensure the children continue to have a broad and balanced curriculum alongside this.

We will be holding a workshop on **Tuesday 17th September at 6pm** in which we will go through all of the information about SATs and the preparations we make in school for it. We will also briefly go through the aspects of Sex and Relationships Education covered in year 6. This meeting will contain lots of important information so we hope you can attend. This workshop is not suitable for children to attend due to the information we will be sharing, it will be held in the Year 6 classrooms and should last no more than one hour.

In it we will aim to answer the questions below:

- *When and where will SATs take place?*
- *What do Year 6 SATs involve?*
- *How will my child's learning be developed and supported this year?*
- *What knowledge and skills will my child be taught this year in English and Maths?*
- *What types of questions do SATs papers include?*
- *How can I support them at home?*

Please complete the Microsoft Form by **Friday 13th September** to confirm whether you will be attending or not. Click [here](#) to access the form.

PE & Forest School

PE

Our usual days for PE this half term are Mondays and Thursdays but please ensure that your child has their full PE kit in school at all times, as these days can sometimes change. As a reminder, PE kit consists of white t-shirt, green or black shorts and pumps. In addition, for outdoor PE children should have a dark coloured tracksuit and trainers. As one of our PE sessions is outdoors, it is essential they have a tracksuit ready for when the weather starts getting colder. Your child's clothes and footwear should be named and in a bag. Long hair must be tied up for PE, so please ensure your child has a hair bobble for this. They will be asked to remove any earrings when taking part in PE. Should your child be unable to remove these due to them being recently pierced, we ask that you provide a roll of named surgical tape to cover them. If these guidelines are not followed, your child will be unable to take part in the PE lesson. As the children are getting older, they may find it useful to bring some deodorant into school with them to help them feel more comfortable after PE. If they do bring this in, we ask

that it is a roll on rather than an aerosol and that it is named and kept in their bag. In addition, smart watches or fitness trackers must be removed before PE lessons.

Forest School

In Year 6 we try to build in Forest School sessions where appropriate to our themes. We will let you know as and when we plan these in. The recommendations for kit remain the same as in previous years: long sleeved tops, old full-length trousers, and waterproof footwear such as wellingtons or walking boots and a warm, waterproof coat. In addition, we suggest a spare pair of socks plus a jumper or fleece. Waterproof trousers are advised if your child already owns a pair. Children should come into school in their kits and then bring their school uniform to change into afterwards.

Your child will be taking part in Forest School whatever the weather (with the exception of lightning storms, high winds or torrential rain) so please make sure they have a full named kit otherwise the Forest School experience is not as enjoyable. Forest School kits will be sent home at the end of the day.

The Forest School motto is: **“There is no such thing as inappropriate weather, only inappropriate clothing!”**

End of day routines

We dismiss children from the door nearest the field in the 5/6 block. In order for this to run as smoothly as possible, please let us know in writing any specific home time arrangements for your child. If you have already informed us of this, there is no need to send another letter. If these arrangements change at any point, please let us know in writing or by phone. Children will not be allowed to walk home on their own, unless we have been told this by their parent/carer. Sometimes children who walk home alone like to bring a mobile phone to school with them, in case of an emergency when walking home. We ask that these are switched off and placed in their class teacher's desk drawer each morning and then will then be returned at the end of the day. However, these items are brought in at the owner's risk. If your child needs to bring their phone to school, please ensure you have read the mobile phone and smart watch policy and signed the home-school agreement, which has been sent home with your child today.

If you wish to see a member of staff at the end of the day, please wait until every child has been dismissed before approaching, to ensure that all children have a clear view to their parents. Whilst we do our utmost to ensure that every child has all of their belongings at the end of a day, there may be times when they need to re-enter the building to collect a forgotten item. Again, please wait until every child has been dismissed to avoid congestion at the door.

Snack

Children are asked to bring in a healthy snack for break times. This could be a fruit or vegetable snack, a cereal bar or a yogurt, but one item a day is sufficient. No nut-based products are allowed due to allergies amongst children and staff. If you want to provide birthday treats for your child's class, then please also ensure that these are free from nuts. Snacks should be kept in the lunch trolley along with their lunchboxes, rather than in their bags. It is essential that all bottles and containers are named.

Classroom routines

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be introducing your children to our class routines and expectations. You will probably be familiar with many of these, but we have outlined them below so that you understand them if your child brings them up in conversation. Part of being in Year 6 involves fostering greater levels of independence in the children, ready for their move to high school. With this in mind, please consider how you can support your child with this at home: encouraging them to pack their own PE kits, remember reading journals and bringing homework in on the correct day are all good places to start.

Class rules

Each classroom has the class rules on display, which the children came up with themselves. The primary focus is on respect – for every adult, for each other and for the classroom and school as a whole. We also focus on them being kind and polite, carefully listening and working hard to achieve their best.

'Reach for the Stars' Zone Board

This is part of our whole school behaviour and relationship policy. Every child begins the day on the 'Sunshine'. When they are spotted doing the right thing, such as following instructions or being kind to others, they are rewarded by moving up to the rocket, and subsequently up to the stars. If they have reached the stars by the end of the day, the children are given a star sticker which they stick onto their collection card - in Year 6 these are stars. Once a child has earned 10-star stickers, they receive a 'Star Voucher' which will be kept safely for

them by the class teacher in the 'Star Bank'. Children can then trade their vouchers for items from Mrs Thorp's 'Star Shop'. Children are encouraged to consider whether they wish to 'spend' or 'save' their vouchers. During the day, if a child is struggling to make the right choices, they will be moved to the grey 'Choice Cloud' where they will be reminded of the choices they can make regarding their behaviour. As soon as they make the right choice, they move back to wherever they had already reached on the zone board. If they continue to struggle to make the right choice or find themselves in a 'stormy moment', they will be moved to the Storm Cloud where they will be supported by an adult to return to the sunshine. All Storm Cloud incidents are recorded; if they become a cause for concern, we will contact you so that we can work in partnership to support your child with their choices. In addition, they will take some time during the next break or lunchtime to discuss their stormy moment with an adult and identify how to deal with the situation differently should it arise in the future.

Reading Books

Your child will have brought home a reading journal and reading book to enjoy at home. We ask that they read every day. There is a box in their journal for you or your child to sign each time they read and then a box for any reading comments from across the week, along with an example at the front for how this could be filled in. We expect reading journals to come back into school every day and have impressed upon the children that they should take responsibility for this themselves. If your child is reading scheme books, then when they have finished reading their book, please write a comment to that effect in their journal. Your child's book will not be changed without such a comment. Thank you for your support.

Visits and Activities

Over the course of the year, we will be taking the children on a selection of educational visits designed to complement the themes we will be covering. Below you will find the dates for the ones we have already booked in:

Wednesday 11th September 2024 – Miss Taylor's Class Visit to Bewdley Museum

Friday 12th September 2024 – Miss Harris' Class Visit to Bewdley Museum

w/c 7.10.24 – Bikeability (JT's Class) and w/c 14.10.24 Bikeability (FT's Class) – a separate letter will be sent out nearer the time

Thursday 6th March 2025 – Westonbirt Arboretum

Supporting your child at home:

Homework

The partnership between home and school is extremely important and homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework is essential in supporting the children's development as independent learners.

Teachers will continue to upload homework to the school website. Please click on 'Homework' which can be found under the 'Children' tab (pictured below).



The screenshot shows the school website's navigation bar. The 'Children' tab is active, and its dropdown menu is open, displaying 'Class Pages', 'Homework', and 'Home Learning Platform'. The school's name, 'The Lyppard Grange Primary School', and its motto, 'Empowering children to be secure, engaged and equipped for life', are visible in the header.

Select your child's year group and select the appropriate week. From here, you can view, download, or print your child's homework. If accessing homework electronically is problematic for you, please speak to your child's class teacher. Each Friday, children will be sent home with their homework book, within which they can do any working out or writing necessary. Homework is due back in by Wednesday. By the end of the week, children will take part in a whole class feedback session with their class teacher. Children who have not completed homework will be given the opportunity to complete it in school, but please note that this will happen during their playtime.

In Year 6 we have subscriptions to 2 websites – spag.com and maths.co.uk – which both have lots of useful SATs-style practice quizzes which are automatically marked so we can view the scores. We will be sending home logins for each of these, which will be stuck in children's reading journals and homework books and will inform you, via the school website, if homework has been set on either of these. In maths, children have half termly KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts) that they will be working on throughout the year. In year 6, we try to progress through these more quickly than this, to ensure we get them all covered prior to SATs. More details

will be shared at the workshop and information can be found in the year 6 homework section of the school website. Often, maths homework will be linked to their current KIRF.

Daily reading

Daily reading is the first form of homework we expect your child to complete; children should spend around ten to fifteen minutes each day reading their scheme reader or free reader book. Whilst your child may now read more independently, it would still benefit them greatly if the children had opportunities to read aloud to develop their expression and intonation and discuss their reading with an adult at times. In addition, children of any age always benefit from and enjoy being read to.

Mental Maths Challenge

Every week your child will take part in a mental maths challenge, and we ask that you help your child to practise the skill we have challenged them to daily. Children will need to score at least 18/20 on two consecutive challenges in order to move up to the next level or get their grid time under 3 minutes. They will be able to tell you which challenge they are working on.

Uniform

Correct uniform is to be worn at all times, including appropriate footwear. Whilst children may choose to wear trainers out to play, these will then need to be changed once the child returns into the school building. Again, just to save any confusion, please make sure that **all** school uniform is well labelled. The only jewellery permitted are stud earrings and no bracelets/wristbands should be worn either.

The children will be doing a wide variety of art activities across this year. In order to protect their uniforms, you may wish to send in a named art apron/old shirt.

Show and Tell

Children are welcome to bring items of topic-related interest to show in class. However, please ensure that these are topic-related items only. Any additional out of school achievements can of course be shared with class teachers if children wish to.

E-Safety

Our children are growing up in a digital world and are likely to be spending increasing amounts of time online as they get older. In order to help them remain safe online and understand both the benefits and potential risks of the internet, we do lots of age-appropriate work around e-safety in our computing lessons and within PSHCE. In addition, we send out an e-safety newsletter to parents/carers each month to keep you up to date with online safety risks, issues, advice and guidance related to keeping children safe online. Please take time to read this and where necessary, have any conversations with your children about the content to ensure they are able to enjoy technology safely and age-appropriately and know what to do if they experience something which worries them online. Please follow this link to see any past newsletters and other useful E-Safety information. <https://www.lyppardgrange.worcs.sch.uk/online-safety/>

Special Educational Needs

As a community school we welcome and provide for all children regardless of their culture, background or special educational needs. If you have any concerns about your child's individual needs, please arrange an appointment to discuss these with us and our school SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator) Mrs Edwards. We ask that you respect every family and their needs by showing your tolerance and acceptance of every child within our school, especially in front of your own children. If you have any concerns about the behaviour or support given to individual children, we would be happy to discuss our policy with you further by appointment.

Hopefully this guide will help you become familiar with the learning, expectations and activities in Year 6. We hope that their year will be extremely successful, fun-filled and enjoyable. We truly appreciate the high levels of support that children receive at home, as it really does help them achieve in class.

With thanks for your support this term,

Jess Taylor and Fiona Tilley (Class Teachers)

Nic Browning, Martine Taylor, Donna Jones and Naomi Clare (Teaching Assistants)