

# Class 6 Newsletter

AUTUMN 1 2022

Dear parents/carers and children,

Welcome to Class 6! We hope you have all had a lovely summer. The children have made a wonderful, positive return to school, and have certainly returned ready for action. It has been lovely to speak to some of you already, and we look forward to working together with you throughout our year of adventure in Class 6.

## Staffing

This half term, Class 6 will be taught by Mr Selby from Monday to Wednesday. On Thursday and Friday, Miss Maloney will teach the class. The class will also be supported in their learning by Miss Smith.

## Why was the Islamic civilisation around 900AD known as the 'Golden Age'?

This half-term we will be starting a **history** topic on early Islamic society. We will focus on the fascinating developments during this time period in Baghdad: from the House of Wisdom to the world's first hospitals! The children will be using their previous learning to compare this culturally advanced society with the relatively primitive life lived at the time in Anglo Saxon England, which they will have knowledge of from their learning in Class 5.

Our topic will focus on the history and developments of the time period, but will also include geography skills, a focus on Islamic art, a design and technology invention task and music.

## English

In our English work, we will look at adventure stories. Our main text will be **Horsemen of Baghdad by Saviour Pirotta**, but we will also be reading some of **The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor**. Both of these stories are set during the Islamic Golden Age and provide – on top of the adventure – a glimpse into the time period we are discovering.



## The Golden Horsemen of Baghdad by Saviour Pirotta

After his father's death, Jabir has to find the money for his family's rent to save them from being made homeless!

There will also be a focus on punctuation and grammar as we assess the children and ensure they are ready to expand on the range of correctly-used punctuation they use within their independent work.

## Key Writing Expectations

In narrative:

- Describe settings
- Describe characters
- Create atmosphere

Use a range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs, including:

- A range of conjunctions
- Adverbials of time
- Adverbials of place

## Punctuation and grammar focus

- Capital letters; full stops; question marks; commas for lists, and to clarify meaning; inverted commas; apostrophes for contraction; parenthesis; semi-colons; colons and dashes.

## Spelling

Spelling tests will be completed on Fridays, with new words being given out on paper, and via the Parent App, each week. The first new spellings will be issued on 16<sup>th</sup> September, with informal assessment and spelling lessons taking place before then. Each new half term will begin with an 'unseen' test which will be based on some of the words from the previous half term.

## Reading

In the classroom, we will complete daily reading activities and discussions during guided reading times in the morning (Mon-Thu). These sessions will often focus on our current class book, but will also feature a range of text types to compare and contrast.

We use our Year 6 Recommended Reading List to help encourage the children to read a wider range of texts and genres. This list has been very positively received in previous years, with many children discovering new books and authors they would never have previously considered. We would love the children to read books from this list and rate/review them for other children in the class, but they can – of course – also continue reading books of their own choice outside of this list as well. It is essential that children in Year 6 read regularly, both independently and with an adult at home. Please consider making time for a regular 'bedtime story' reading session, if this is not already part of your evening routine – it really does help for the children

to hear reading modelled by an adult, so they can also access books which are more challenging than they may be able to read themselves.

Each week, the children will be expected to complete a reading diary about their reading at home. There are a range of suggestions for how the children can complete this in the front of their book.

### Mathematics

In Mathematics we will begin with a focus on **place value**:

- Read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10,000,000 and determine the value of each digit
- Round any whole number to a required degree of accuracy
- Solve problems which require answers to be rounded to specified degrees of accuracy
- Identify the value of each digit in numbers given to 3 decimal places
- Use negative numbers in context, and calculate intervals across zero
- Solve number and practical problems which involve all of the above

We will then turn our attention onto **addition, subtraction, multiplication and division**:

- Multiply multi-digit numbers up to 4-digits by a 2-digit whole number using the formal written method of long multiplication
- Multiply 1-digit numbers with up to two decimal places by whole numbers
- Divide numbers up to 4-digits by a 2-digit whole number using the formal written method of long division
- Divide numbers up to 4-digits by a 2-digit number using the formal written method of short division
- Use written division methods in cases where the answer has up to two decimal places
- When dividing, interpret remainders as whole number remainders, fractions, or by rounding, as appropriate for the context
- Multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000, giving answers to 3 decimal places
- Perform mental calculations, including with mixed operations and large numbers
- Identify common factors, common multiples and prime numbers
- Use knowledge of order of operations to carry out calculations involving all four operations

All lessons feature elements of class, paired and independent work, and will encourage the children to discuss and articulate their thinking using mathematical vocabulary. We look in-depth at each area and focus on problem solving to build resilience and independence.

Next week, the children will be given their logins to Times Tables Rock Stars, and there will be an expectation that they practise at home on the 'Studio' game for at least 10 minutes each week, as well as playing any of the other game modes they enjoy.

Quick recollection of times tables and division facts are essential to success in other areas of the mathematics curriculum, so we would really appreciate your support in encouraging the children to practise, and to see this as a positive thing to do.

### Physical Education

Tuesday afternoon

- Invasion and team games

Friday afternoon

- Dance

Please make sure the children come to school in correct PE kit on Tuesdays and Fridays, so they are ready to take part in the lessons.

#### PE Kit

- plain white round necked T-shirt
  - plain, dark jogging bottoms and tracksuit top
  - trainers
- Please note that no jewellery of any kind may be worn in PE. If your child wears earrings, they should be able to remove them independently.
- Only newly pierced ears may be covered with plasters.

### Religious Education

**Units of work:**

- 6.1 *Life as a Journey and Pilgrimage*

**The aim of this unit is to:**

- give children an opportunity to think about the idea that that life is a journey and what it means to make that journey as a Christian.
- enable pupils to begin to understand the concept of undertaking a religious pilgrimage.

### PSHE

We are continuing with our new Jigsaw PSHE scheme. The scheme features six puzzles (units), which begins with 'Being me in my world'. During this puzzle, the class will consider their goals for the year ahead, working within a community and being a global citizen.

### Parent App – Connect

This year, we are launching our new Parent App. Please make sure you are registered to use this app, which can be accessed via any smartphone. We will use this to contact you with information and newsletters, for consent for trips, for initial low-level behaviour concerns and much more. It should evolve into everything you need in one app!

**Thank you to you all for your support and kindness at the start of this new school year. We're immensely proud to teach this wonderful class of children.**

**Please do not hesitate to contact us via the office if you require any further information or support throughout the year.**

*Mr Selby and Miss Maloney*