



OUGHTON LIFE:

Learning, Inclusion, Friendship, Enjoyment..... for everyone.

Everyone – children, staff and families.

Year 6 Parent Handbook

September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you had a lovely Summer. There are a lot of exciting activities planned this year. Within this booklet we have put together an overview of the curriculum for your child this year and also some general information and reminders that we hope you will find useful. The booklets are specific to each year group so if you have more than one child please do read each booklet. Copies of these are also available on the school website and through the school office.

Welcome to Year 6

Key Stage Leader – Mrs Smith (who also teaches Year 5)

Year 6 Silver Birch Class

Mr Marshall – Year 6 class teacher

Mrs Lincoln – Working one afternoon a week in Year 6, normally a Tuesday

Mrs Hibbs and Mrs Drakes (Teaching Assistants) will also be working across Year 6.

Working Together

Your support is important to enable your child to do as well as they can and we value a close working relationship with all Parents and Carers. We aim for children to leave our school having achieved their best, by developing their skills and talents through a range of learning activities and experiences. The school teaches a broad and balanced curriculum based on the National Curriculum, which is enriched through additional events and activities. We expect children to fully participate in events and educational visits. If there is a concern or difficulty in your child participating, please speak to your child's Class Teacher or the Key Stage Leader in confidence.

Your child will be given home learning activities. Please support your child in completing these. It is important that home learning is completed as it supplements learning at school and gives children the opportunity to practise their skills and extend their learning further. Your child's Teacher will be the key point of contact for you and it is most helpful if you let the Teacher know about any matters

that may affect your child, so that we can support them in school. You may sometimes have questions or concerns and your child's Teacher will be happy to discuss these with you. Brief updates, for example about end of day collection, can be easily exchanged at the classroom door as your child arrives for school. However, it is best to arrange a meeting if you wish to have a more detailed conversation. Feel free to ring the School Office 01462 450716 to leave a message for the Teacher who will then ring you back at a convenient time and/or arrange a meeting. Please be aware, discussions at the end of the school day must occur after all children have been dismissed to their Parents/Carers.

Most matters will be appropriately discussed and resolved with the Teacher. However, you may feel a matter is more appropriately discussed with a more senior member of staff, in which case you may wish to arrange a conversation with either your child's Phase Leader or one of our Assistant Headteachers – Mrs Phillipson or Mrs Smith. In some cases, you may wish to speak to Mrs Clayton our Headteacher. Any conversations or meetings can be arranged either directly with the Class Teacher or via the School Office 01462 450716.

If you feel that your child or your family require some Pastoral Support, please pop in the School Office or ring to contact Mrs Woollon, our Pastoral Support Manager. Mrs Phillipson is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator if you have a query about Special Needs. If you have a concern about the safety of any child, within our school or out of school, please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection – Mrs Clayton, Mrs Phillipson or Mrs Woollon.

Timetable and School day

Just to remind you, we open the classroom door at 8:45am and our learning starts at this time. Please ensure that your child is on time for school to enable a good start to the school day. Staff are working with children at this time so be aware, it can be difficult to talk to Parents at the door with children in the classroom.

We teach Maths and English each day, this includes Guided Reading. In the afternoons, we teach the Foundation subjects and other Core subjects such as Science, Computing, Geography, History, RE, PE, Art, Design and Technology (DT), Music, French (KS 2 only) and Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE). These subjects build up our curriculum and ensure that we teach a rich, broad and varied curriculum to every child.

Attendance

It is vital that every child attends school regularly. There is a strong link between children's good progress in school and their good attendance. We are a Local Authority school and governed by both the LA and Government policies. Holidays and days out of school will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances deemed by the Headteacher. Any requests will be considered and authorised at the Headteacher's discretion in accordance with the Local Authority and National guidelines.

Please be aware that we issue penalty fines and lates are also included within this. It is essential that children do not miss learning through being late for school. This disrupts their start to the school day and also impacts on the teaching of the class. Please read our Attendance Policy, which is on the website for more information. Please also read our Attendance Newsletter – Attendance Matters.

In Year 6, we aim to win the Attendance Award each week! As a school, we aim for every child to attend 96% or above. When a child is absent from school, it is difficult for them to catch up.

Please help us to be the best year group in the school for attendance! We give rewards for attendance – certificates as well as a prize draw!

Curriculum and how you can help your child

Our Curriculum Overview for Year 6 will be sent to you and is on our website. This enables you to see the topics and key learning areas taught across the year in all of the subjects.

It is a busy year for Year 6 as we prepare the class for their SATS tests week beginning **13th May 2024**. Please encourage your children to attend all of the Booster sessions (Maths and English) we offer – Morning Maths 8-8:45am Monday to Thursday, any after school sessions plus holiday Boosters. We will be offering Booster sessions in October half term, February half term and Easter holidays.

Maths: The National Curriculum is designed to ensure all pupils become fluent in the fundamentals of Maths, solve problems and reason mathematically. Fluency in Maths is related to children being able to learn and remember key mathematical facts e.g. the 8 times table. Problem Solving is the ability to apply Maths to a variety of problems e.g. word problems, investigations. Reasoning is to use what is known about Maths to tackle a problem and make connections between their learning e.g. Are all multiples of 3 even? Explain your answer with examples.

At home, ask your children lots of questions linked to Maths, shopping and money is a great way to get your children thinking about Maths in a practical way. It could be as simple as how much money do I have here? If I spent £16.75 how much would I have left? If they have a deal of 'Buy one get one free', you could ask your child if this is really a good deal. Ask them to work out percentages of items such as 15% of £32 or if a shop has a 10% sale, how much is an item now? There will be a range of support material sent out in the first term to help the children.

Our School Calculation policy is available to view on the school website.

English: The National Curriculum is designed to ensure that all pupils become fluent and confident speakers, readers and writers. Language is a key priority at Oughton Primary and we know that language and vocabulary is the key to success in life.

Reading is vital as it helps us learn in all other subjects. Reading is part of the SATS tests - answering questions relating to texts and vocabulary. Our Reading Comprehension home learning booklets are similar to the SATS style.

Please listen to your child read or check they are reading and recording in their Reading Record Books. We expect the children to read to an adult at home at least three times a week, with an aim of 5 times a week, as part of their weekly home learning. Please discuss books with your child as well as listening to them read to help them improve their comprehension and deeper understanding of a text. In Year 6, we encourage the children to make their own comments or if they prefer, speak to a parent about what they have read and an adult can write the comment.

Please read the information in the Reading Record Book. Children will be rewarded for reading at home as they move around the World! Reading Around the World offers challenges and rewards throughout.

Also, share a book with your child, read to them; we are never too old to listen to stories! It is important that we build up vocabulary and listening and discussing stories helps this.

Help your child practise with their spelling. See the spelling words expected to be known by the end of Year 6. Practise these words at home and talk about their meanings.

Word list – years 5 and 6

accommodate	embarrass	persuade
accompany	environment	physical
according	equip (–ped, –ment)	prejudice
achieve	especially	privilege
aggressive	exaggerate	profession
amateur	excellent	programme
ancient	existence	pronunciation
apparent	explanation	queue
appreciate	familiar	recognise
attached	foreign	recommend
available	forty	relevant
average	frequently	restaurant
awkward	government	rhyme
bargain	guarantee	rhythm
bruise	harass	sacrifice
category	hindrance	secretary
cemetery	identity	shoulder
committee	immediate(ly)	signature
communicate	individual	sincere(ly)
community	interfere	soldier
competition	interrupt	stomach
conscience*	language	sufficient
conscious*	leisure	suggest
controversy	lightning	symbol
convenience	marvellous	system
correspond	mischievous	temperature
criticise (critic + ise)	muscle	thorough
curiosity	necessary	twelfth
definite	neighbour	variety
desperate	nuisance	vegetable
determined	occupy	vehicle
develop	occur	yacht
dictionary	opportunity	
disastrous	parliament	

Science – this year our topics are Animals including Humans, Light, Living things and their Habitats, Evolution and Inheritance and Electricity. Using BBC Bitesize is a great way for your children to learn more. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

RE – this year we will be learning about Christian and Buddhist Beliefs and Practices, Christmas Expressing Faith in Art and Drama, Easter and Ideas about Human Responsibility for the Environment. Go to the local library and find a book to read some more on the topics.

Computing – we will be learning how to use Excel, programming Using Scratch: Animation Stories and a unit of E-Safety. You can access Scratch at home free, type in Scratch into your search engine. The children can watch videos, play games and recreate learning in the lesson. Excel, Word and PowerPoint can be found in files through Teams.

History – our topics this year are World War Two – the impact war had upon Britain and Ancient Greek, a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world. We have many books in the classroom the children can borrow to find out more. Maybe you have family members who have links to WWII and the children could share their information with the class.

Geography – we will answer the questions: What is a river? How is climate change affecting the world? Why is fair trade fair? Maybe you could visit a local river and explore what it looks like. There are many climate change issues discussed, Newsround <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround> is a great source of information.

Music – we will focus on the music of Happy and You've got a friend. Why not listen to these songs at home and discuss what you think about them? Maybe you will find different versions of the songs.

Art – this year we will explore famous artists and explore their styles, clay where we will make a statue linked to our English work and mixed media project which includes printing, watercolour and wire work. Ask your children about Artists they have learnt about in class and in Assemblies, which artwork do they prefer and why?

Design and Technology (DT) – this year we will be learning to create shelters, make a seasonal soup and use our electricity knowledge to create complex electrical systems. As you walk around can you find any shelters? How are they constructed? You might talk about different electrical elements in your home. One thing that would be super tasty to do would be try some soups and think about which ones you like and do not like.

PE – this year, we will be doing a range of activities including: Tag Rugby, Dance, Netball, Gymnastics, Basketball, Badminton, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, Gymnastics, Cricket, Tennis, Athletics, Swimming and we hope to trial Golf.

French – we will be learning about French towns, shopping and consolidation of the previous year's learning. Look on google maps or an atlas, what places in France can you locate? Can they find the capital of France? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> have some pronunciation support in their French resources.

PSHE – the whole school themes are Being Me in my World, Celebrating Difference, Goals and dreams, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me. In November, we will be focusing on anti-bullying and learning about what this means. In the Summer Term, we will be teaching our Sex and Relationship Education.

Useful websites to help your child:

Oughton Primary and Nursery School Website: <http://www.oughton.herts.sch.uk>

TT Rock Stars: <https://play.ttrockstars.com>

Mathletics: <https://login.mathletics.com/> (if your child is unsure on an element there are videos on the website)

SPAG.com: <https://www.spag.com/>

BBC Bite size have a range of great resources to help your child with a range of learning.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Your child will have a log in for Times Table Rock Stars, Mathletics and SPAG.com, please see their Reading Record. Your Reading Record also holds a range of support materials.

Please look at www.oughton.herts.sch.uk for more information about our Curriculum. Also, keep an eye on our Class page – photos will be added throughout the year.

Do not forget the local library and the school library are great resources for books to find out more information on any topic.

Trips, Events and Key Dates

Our Let's Celebrate Assembly will be on the **7th November at 2:45pm**. Please join us for this and find out more about the learning in Year 6.

On **13th September 2023**, Sarah Graham, a local Artist will be working with the class on an Art project.

In Year 6, the children will visit RAF Hendon on **Tuesday 14th November** and our residential trip PGL Liddington date is **9th -12st June 2024**. Our first trip links to our History learning and our last trip to PGL is to build resilience and help the children to gain confidence before starting Secondary School.

There will be several 'Wow' days across the year such as a WWII experience day on **Tuesday 19th October**; children will need to dress as an evacuee for the day. We are holding an Ancient Greek WOW day on **January 11th 2024** and the children may dress up for this day. We will be visiting our local River on **Thursday 21st May 2024** and where wellies or suitable footwear for walking is advisable. Not forgetting at the end of year, there will be many celebratory events including an end of year production, which you are of course invited to on **Wednesday 3rd July (2pm afternoon)** and **Thursday 4th July (Evening)** and a leavers' event for the children on **Monday 22nd July 2024**. Finally, the Leavers Assembly will be on **Tuesday 23rd July at 10am** (the last day of term).

Year 6 will have their SATS this year and they will begin on **Monday 13th May**. These are Government tests and are held Monday to Thursday. The tests will cover Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation (Monday), Reading (Tuesday) and Maths (Wednesday and Thursday). We will be holding a Parental Curriculum Information Meeting to let you know more information about this on **Monday 11th September at 5pm**. Please attend, this will enable you to support your child this year in working towards these tests.

Boosters to aid preparation for SATS will take place during half terms and Easter. These are open for all Year 6 children. Please support your child to attend. These are fun Boosters and there are lots of rewards / prizes for children.

Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th October 9:30 – 12:00pm

Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th February 9:30 – 12:00pm

Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th April 9:30 – 12:00pm

Every Tuesday after school – Maths / English Booster 3:15-4:15pm

Other whole school dates:

Monday 18th September Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Friday 29th September Parents / Carers Macmillan Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime
Tuesday 10th October 3:15pm Scarecrow Festival, celebrating Harvest
Monday 16th October Individual school photos
Wednesday 18th October 4-6pm Parents / Carers Open Evening
Thursday 19th October 6-8pm Parents / Carers Open Evening
Half term Week beginning 23rd October 2023
Tuesday 31st October Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Week beginning 13th November - Anti-bullying Week
Friday 1st December Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Thursday 7th December – Choir visit to Cheshire Home
Tuesday 12th December – Trip to the Pantomime at Stevenage Year 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 12th December – EYFS Nativity (Reception and Nursery)
Wednesday 13th December – Trip to the Pantomime at Stevenage Year 1, 2 and 3
Thursday 14th December – Key Stage 1 Performance afternoon (Year 1 and 2)
Friday 15th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner (whole school)
Monday 18th December – Key Stage 2 Carol Concert afternoon (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6) Christmas Tree Festival afterschool
Tuesday 19th December – last day of term
Wednesday 20th December – Occasional Day – no children in school

Thursday 4th January – children back to school
Thursday 1st February – Choir – Young Voices
Week beginning 12th February – Feel Good Week
Friday 16th February – Inset Day – No children in school
Half term week beginning 19th February.
Wednesday 28th February 4-6pm Parents / Carers Open Evening
Thursday 29th February 6-8pm Parents / Carers Open Evening
Friday 1st March Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Wednesday 6th March – KS 1 and 2 Theatre Production of the Little Princess
Thursday 7th March – World Book Day – details to follow nearer the time
Thursday 28th March – last day of the Spring term

Monday 15th April – children back to school
Tuesday 23rd April Class Photos
Tuesday 23rd April Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Monday 6th May – Bank holiday – no children in school
Fortnight beginning Monday 20th May – Celebrating the Arts
Friday 24th May – Inset Day – no children in school
Half term week beginning 27th May
Thursday 6th June – Art Exhibition after school
Thursday 20th June – Sports Afternoon - Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Reserve Thurs 27th June)
Friday 28th June Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Thursday 11th July – Transition Day
Tuesday 23rd July - last day of term

We are also hoping to arrange a Parental Workshop on Emotional Regulation led by our Mental Health Support Team.

Please see our website for dates regarding holidays and Inset days. There will be extra dates and events throughout the year so please make sure that you read all correspondence via Arbor and all newsletters. Please note, dates may change if necessary.

Online Safety

Throughout all of the units in Computing lessons, children will be taught how to keep safe when using any computer, tablet or website. This will include the safe use of photographs, usernames and email. Children are encouraged to use tablets and computers in the presence of their Parents at home. We will follow up any concerns regarding children's use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp etc. Social Media sites are not considered appropriate for children of Primary school age. Please follow the Government guidance and age guidance for games, apps and media sites.

Home Learning

We expect every child to complete their home learning tasks. We also expect every child to read regularly as already stated. We also expect all children to be practising their times table skills on TT Rock Stars, this will be set weekly.

A Reading Comprehension book will be given out and one section will need to be completed each week.

Maths home learning will be set weekly using Mathletics and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar work will be set each week using SPAG.com. See your child's Reading Record Book for log ins.

Some children will be set extra Reading work using Lexia.

To support home learning, all children are given the opportunity to attend Morning Maths boosters and additional sessions during the holidays.

General Information

Children are expected to bring their reading book in each day.

Snacks: As a school, we know how important healthy eating is. The Government provides fruit or vegetable snack for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children and we as a school have decided to provide this to Key Stage 2 children as well.

Dinners: Herts Catering Ltd provide our school dinners and offer a hot meal each day which is either meat or vegetarian as well as a jacket potato option. They also offer a cold packed lunch option. Children pick their lunches in class each day. We provide milk for KS 2 children to drink at lunchtimes if they wish.

If you provide a home packed lunch for your child, please remember, we are a nut free school. Nuts must not be brought into school and this includes chocolate spreads which often contain nuts. (Be aware of almonds in sun cream lotion too) Home packed lunches need to be healthy and balanced – no chocolate bars or fizzy / high sugar drinks.

Every child needs their own named water bottle to ensure they get enough fluids during the school day. We encourage children to drink water in the school day and do not allow any other drinks (unless they are part of their packed lunch). Please ensure your child does not use Air-up pods in their water bottles.

PE and PE kit

Our PE days will be on Monday and Thursday. It is important children have an indoor and outdoor kit in school.

Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit in – white t-shirt, black shorts and trainers and this remains in school. It will be sent home at half term to be washed.

Fitness is a key focus in Oughton and children in KS 1 and 2 will be running our 'Daily Dash' circuit each day. Please ensure your child has a pair of trainers in school each day.

Swimming will take place in the Summer Term for Year 6 and children will need to have a sensible swimming costume or swim shorts, goggles and to have their hair tied back for the lesson.

Clubs

As a school we offer a range of sport and subject based clubs which will be delivered by staff throughout the year. Messages will be sent about clubs via Arbor.

Breakfast Club

Premier Education provide a Breakfast Club within school for Reception to Year 6 children. Please book your child in – there is a link from our website. The room which this is held in is Lime, access is via Moss Way Red gate and through the green gate, first classroom is Lime.

After School Club

We provide an after-school provision from 3:15pm-6pm which includes a healthy snack. If you require a place for your child, please book and pay via Arbor. The room which this is held in is Lime, access is via Moss Way Red gate and through the green gate, first classroom is Lime.

Rewards / Houses

We will continue to use House Points and awards such as 'The Golden Book' and 'Super Star', 'Positive Play' and attendance treats. Your child will be in either Sapphire (Blue), Topaz (Yellow), Emerald (Green) or Ruby (Red) and will be able to earn house points. Certificates will be given for house points. Great effort, good home learning effort, completing Times Tables Rock Star challenges, extra work at home, as well as regular reading will help your child to earn lots of house points throughout the year.

Finally.....

The Year 6 team are really looking forward to this year. Remember, if you have any concern, ring the Office and we will get back to you. The most successful educational year is built on one which shows a close relationship with school and home. Our priority, is your child. It is vital that they are happy in order to flourish and develop to their full potential, ready for the next stage of their education and life at Secondary School.

Mr Marshall

Class Teacher