



# **OUGHTON LIFE:**

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

***Everyone – children, staff and families.***

## ***Year 6 Parent Handbook***

***September 2022***

**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 6)

### Year 6 Silver Birch Class

Silver Birch MS - Mrs Smith (Teacher 4 days) and Mrs Lincoln (Teacher 1 day)

Silver Birch LB - Mrs Lopez (Teacher 3.5 days) and Mrs Baverstock (Teacher 2 days)

Mrs Hibbs (Teaching Assistant) 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 Senior Persons 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 **8<sup>th</sup> May 2023**. 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 £1.50 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. 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.

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, 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. Here are 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 – 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 who the children could talk with.

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, what you think about them? Maybe you will find different versions of the song.

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 focusing on Dance - WW II, Basketball, Indoor Athletics, Netball, Dance – Electricity, Tag Rugby, Gymnastics – Shape / Balance, Hockey, Gymnastics – Movement, Striking and Fielding, Swimming and Athletics. In the first term, we will be learning dancing, ask your child to show you the Lindy Hop or the Charleston.

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 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](http://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 **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 2:50pm**. Please join us for this and find out more about the learning in Year 6.

In Year 6, the children will visit RAF Hendon on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November** and our residential trip PGL Liddington proposed date is **18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**. 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 18<sup>th</sup> October**; children will need to dress as an evacuee for the day. A visit to the local River on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May**, where wellies or suitable footwear for walking would be advisable. Not forgetting at the end of year, there will be many celebratory events including a special assembly which you are of course invited to on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm** and **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm** and a leavers' all day party for the children on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July**.

Year 6 will have their SATS this year and they will begin on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 5pm**.

Other whole school dates:

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September Parents Macmillan Coffee Morning 9am

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 3:15pm Scarecrow Festival, celebrating Harvest

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October Individual school photos

Parental Consultation (Open Evenings) Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October Parents Coffee Morning 9am

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – no children in school (half term previous week)

Week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> November Anti-Bullying Week

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November Parents Coffee Morning 9am

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December KS 1 (Year 1 and 2 Parents only) KS 1 Christmas Performance

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December (Nursery and Reception Parents only) EYFS Nativity Performance

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2:30pm Key Stage 2 Carol Concert (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Parents only)

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December Parents Coffee Morning 9am

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 3:15pm Christmas Tree Festival

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Occasional day – no children in school (followed by Christmas holidays)  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January – back to school  
Parental Consultation (Open Evenings) Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> February Feel Good Week  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March Oliver Twist Production to KS 1 and 2  
Easter holidays 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April Class Photos  
Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> May Art Week  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day – no children in school (half term the following week)  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June Art Exhibition  
Sports Afternoon Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June, reserve 6<sup>th</sup> July  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July Transition Day  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June Inset Day – no children in school (Summer holidays following, last day of term 20<sup>th</sup> July)

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 ParentMail 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 will continue to use Microsoft Teams to set work and give messages. Every child has a log in and this should only be used by your child with Parental guidance.

We 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**

School Book bags can be bought from the School Office. 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 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 Wednesday. 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.

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 ParentMail.

**Boosters** will take place during half terms and Easter.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 9:30 – 12:00pm

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 9:30 – 12:00pm

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 9:30 – 12:00pm

### **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, past Early Days 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.

Mrs Smith, Mrs Lopez and Mrs Baverstock