



OUGHTON LIFE:

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

Everyone – children, staff and families.

Year 6 Parent Handbook

September 2025

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

Year 6 Silver Birch Class

Mrs Phillipson – Monday and Tuesday

Mrs Smith – Wednesday to Friday

Miss Duguid – Teaching assistant

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, Spanish (Year 6 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 **11th May 2026**. Please encourage your children to attend all the Booster sessions (Maths and English) we offer – Morning Maths 8-8:45am Monday to Thursday, any after school sessions offered plus holiday Boosters. We will be offering **Booster sessions** in the October half term (Mon 27th / Tues 28th Oct 9:30am-12pm), February half term (Mon 16th/Tues 17th Feb 9:30-12pm) and Easter holidays (Mon 30th / Tues 31st March / Wed 1st April 9:30-12pm). Attending these will greatly benefit your child as it aids the retention of key elements and enables the children to practise and refine their skills, as well as gain great prizes and have fun!

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 – Respectful Religions and worldviews: What words can be used to describe God? Why does religion look different around the world? Why is it better to be there in person. Are some of our topics we will explore this year. We look back at prior learning on prayers, worship and significant religious and no-religious journeys. We will explore the origins of Abrahamic religions and the cultures, traditions of the world around us. 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, Ancient Chinese History and Ancient Greeks.

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 – we will focus on drawing: expressing ideas. Exploring how artists express ideas and how they use scale. Painting & mixed media: Artist study This unit focuses on understanding narratives and descriptive language in art, exploring meanings behind paintings, and developing personal interpretations and abstract art pieces based on selected artists. Sculpture and 3D: Making memories This unit teaches pupils to create expressive sculptures and reflect on artistic decisions.

Design and Technology (DT) – We will explore three units. Cooking and nutrition: Come dine with me Selecting three recipes to create a three-course meal. Textiles: Bags Designing pattern pieces, making a bag for a specific user and thinking about aesthetics and functionality. Mechanical systems: Automata toys Developing functional automata toys for a window display using cams, followers and axles to create movement.

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 and Swimming.

Spanish – we will be introducing the children to Spanish to support their transition to secondary school where many will be introduced to this additional language. We will be learning about Spanish towns, shopping and food associated with Spanish cuisine. Look on google maps or an atlas, what places in Spain can your child locate? Can they find the capital of Spain? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> have some pronunciation support in their Spanish 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

We are very excited about the year ahead in Year 6 and wanted to share some of the key dates and events with you.

Assemblies and Celebrations

- Let's Celebrate Assembly – **Wednesday 19th November at 2:45pm**
Please join us to celebrate the children's learning in Year 6.
- End of Year Production – **Thursday 16th July 2026 6pm**
A chance to see the children perform before they move on to secondary school.
- Leavers' Event – **Wednesday 22nd July 2026**
A special celebration for the children.
- Leavers' Assembly – **Thursday 23rd July 2026 at 10am** (last day of term).

Trips and Visits

- RAF Hendon Visit – Date to be confirmed.
This links with our History learning on World War II.
- Residential Trip to Cuffley Camp – **Monday 15th – Wednesday 17th June 2026**
A fantastic opportunity to build resilience and confidence before secondary school.

Wow Days

- World War II Experience Day – **Wednesday 22nd October 2025**
Children will need to dress as an evacuee.
- Outdoor Wow Day – **Thursday 21st May 2026**
Please ensure children bring wellies or suitable footwear for walking.
- Design and Dine Wow Day – *Date to be confirmed*
Children will plan, design and prepare a meal, then present it to parents.

SATs Week

Year 6 SATs will take place the week beginning Monday 11th May 2026. These are Government tests that run from Monday to Thursday:

- Monday – Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation
- Tuesday – Reading
- Wednesday & Thursday – Maths

We look forward to an exciting and successful year in Year 6 and hope you can join us for as many of these events as possible.

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.

October half term (Mon 27th / Tues 28th Oct 9:30am-12pm)

February half term (Mon 16th/Tues 17th Feb 9:30-12pm)

Easter holidays (Mon 30th / Tues 31st March / Wed 1st April 9:30-12pm)

Please see our sheet sent out via Arbor for **additional dates** across the whole year, including our KS 2 Carol Concert. Please see this sheet 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 our Computing units, 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 social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp etc. Social media sites are not considered appropriate for primary-aged children, and we ask families to follow Government and age guidance for games, apps and media sites.

In Year 6, as children become more independent online, we will also teach them to:

- Create strong passwords and never share them with friends.
- Recognise and report cyberbullying, knowing it is important to tell a trusted adult.
- Think critically about the reliability of online information – not everything they see is true.
- Stay safe in online games, avoiding chat with strangers and only playing age-appropriate games.
- Understand their digital footprint – that what they post online can stay there permanently, even if deleted.
- “Think before you post”, keeping in mind kindness and safety at all times.

We also encourage parents to stay informed about apps, websites and games their child may use. Helpful resources include the UK Safer Internet Centre and Common Sense Media, which provide age ratings and guidance for families.

Home Learning

We expect every child to complete their home learning tasks and to read regularly, as already stated.

- Maths Home Learning – set weekly using *Mathletics* and *TT Rock Stars*. These will be set towards the end of the week, to help children prepare for managing their workload in secondary school.
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) – set weekly using *SPAG.com*. These tasks will be set at the beginning of the week, again to support the development of independent learning skills ready for secondary school.
- Log-in details for all platforms can be found in your child's Reading Record Book.

To further support home learning, all children are given the opportunity to attend Morning Maths Boosters as well as 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 KS2 children to drink at lunchtimes if they wish.

If you provide a home packed lunch for your child, please remember that 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). Due to a case of a severe allergy, please do not also include eggs for example, boiled egg, scotch eggs or egg mayonnaise in packed lunches. 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 day will be on **Monday and Wednesday** during the afternoon. 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 KS1 and 2 will be running our 'Daily Dash' circuit each day. Please ensure your child has a pair of trainers in school each day.

We hope that swimming will take place in the Summer Term for Year 6 and children will need to have a sensible swimming costume or swim shorts, a swimming hat and they may need some goggles. The aim at the end of the year is that every child is able to swim 25 metres independently, if you are able to, please take your child swimming to practise their skills ready for the Summer term.

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 and Houses

We will continue to use House Points and awards such as *The Golden Book*, *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 throughout the year. Certificates will be given for house point milestones.

House points can be earned for:

- Great effort in lessons
- Excellent manners
- Completing home learning tasks
- Taking on Times Tables Rock Stars challenges
- Extra work at home
- Regular reading

This year we will also continue focusing on being the Best Version of Ourselves. Throughout the day, children will be celebrated for showing kindness, resilience, effort, teamwork and determination. These moments will be recognised as part of our rewards system, helping every child to feel proud of who they are and the choices they make.

Finally...

The Year 6 team is truly excited about the year ahead. Year 6 is a special time – full of opportunities, challenges and memories to be made. We know that with teamwork between school and home, your child will thrive.

Our priority is always your child's happiness and success. When children feel happy, safe and valued, they flourish – building the confidence, resilience and skills they need for the next stage of their education and for life beyond primary school.

Together, let's make this year one to remember – where every child leaves Year 6 proud of themselves, ready for secondary school and excited about the future.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Phillipson

Class Teachers