



## Welcome to the start of 2026!



Welcome back to the new term! We hope you have had an enjoyable holiday and we would like to wish you a happy and healthy 2026. This is the beginning of a very important term for the children in year six and we look forward to all the children being happy, successful and making good progress that they all can be proud of.

### Homework and Handwriting

Homework will continue to be a focus in year 6 as it plays an important part of children's learning. The expectation is that homework is completed at home, to a **good standard** (using a sharp pencil or a blue or black biro), and is in school by the due date in order to be marked as part of lessons.

Additionally, a good quality of handwriting – including the correct formation of letters **and digits** – is expected and we appreciate the support you can give at home with reinforcing these key messages that the children are hearing in school. As well as learning weekly spelling words given, we would like the children to continue to develop their vocabulary – finding synonyms/antonyms/homophones for words read/heard and then trying to use them correctly in their own writing.

We continue to promote independent study and so expect any unknown meanings of words to be researched using a dictionary or an online resource.

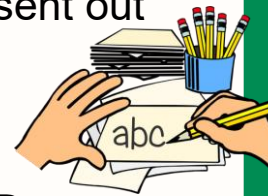
## A Reminder: The start of the school day

We would urge you to ensure that your child is in school by 8:40am every day. Although named a 'soft' start, vital learning takes place every day from this time onwards and your child is missing valuable SATs preparation if they arrive in school later than **8:40am**. Unfortunately, **there continues to be a small minority of children who are not in class by 8:50am which means that they are given a late mark in the register. This information will also be shared with their secondary schools when handovers are completed.**



# SATS WEEK: 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

At the end of last term, your child was informed of their most recent mock SATs results, which they sat in December. The progress they have made since the September mock SATs was also shared with them. We hope that having this comparison will motivate the children to either continue to improve (as they can see their hard work paying off) or may push them to aspire to working harder to make greater progress in the next mock SATs, which will take place at some point during this term. You will be given information about how well your child has done, with results and whether they are 'on track', at the Parents' Evening later in the term. Further information will be sent out regarding this closer to the date.



Please remember that if your child has had an invitation to attend Booster Classes or tuition, do try to support this as it really is a super opportunity for your child's learning. It is vital that they attend every session to maximise the impact on your child reaching their potential. Many thanks to all those children and parents who already show a great commitment to the sessions.

## READING

Reading is an **ESSENTIAL** part of learning. It is extremely important for children in year 6 to read as often as possible. Reading with speed and accuracy, with confidence for understanding as well as being able to find inference is a huge focus in the upcoming SATs and it is vital that the children practise this skill as often as possible. All children benefit from daily reading and sharing books with adults, and we **expect all children to read at home for a minimum of five times a week**. They should be aiming to complete at least one AR quiz every week – more if the book they are reading contains fewer pages. Reading is the key to so much success. Even if your child is a competent reader, please aim to read with your child at least three times a week. Your enthusiasm will be 'picked up' by your child and will inspire them to read more and make greater progress. Even very able readers will benefit from sharing and discussing their books with you. We have high expectations that our 'accelerated reader' scheme has also really helped to promote a 'love of reading' and we are continuing to expand the range of reading materials available in the classroom.

## Spellings

You will find on the app, a core list of year 5 and 6 spellings to be learnt over this half term. Each week, the teacher will select 3-5 words from this list and will test to see if they can spell them. In addition, the children will be given a weekly list of words which follow a specific spelling rule or pattern and will be tested on all of these words in a weekly spelling test. Your child's class teacher will inform them of their test day. They should frequently re-visit the different patterns learnt to ensure that they remember them.

# Curriculum

## Our learning topics this term include:

Science: Animals including humans (Spring 1)  
Living things and their habitat (Spring 2)

History: 20<sup>th</sup> century conflict (Spring 1)

Geography: Fieldwork (Spring 2)

RE: Why is it better to be there in person? (Spring 1)  
Why is there suffering? Part one (Spring 2)

Art: Lino printing (Spring 1)

DT: Mocktails (Spring 2)

Computing: Sensing (Spring 1)

Webpage creation (Spring 2)



We hope the children will enjoy these topics.

## Optional home learning

If the children would like to do any research/pre-reading around any of the above topics which interest them, this would be very useful. Similarly, there are many workbooks and textbooks that relate to the SATs that can be purchased from retailers such as WH Smith to support their learning.



## Key Dates

- **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – A visit to Brunel University for the Junior Citizens' Event.**
- **3rd February– History Workshop – in school**

Thank you to everyone for payments made for both of the above events. We are still waiting for the last few final payments so please ensure that this is done by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

THANK  
YOU

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support which we really value and appreciate. If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact his/her class teacher.

We look forward to continuing to work together so that your child will continue to have a happy and successful time in year six.

Kind regards

Year six teachers