



Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter – Spring Term 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back for another term at Winhills. We hope you had a wonderful time off during the Christmas holidays and are looking forward to an important term ahead. We are sure you will agree that Year 6 is a significant year in the life of your children, as they will embark on their last year at primary school before moving on towards secondary school. Our main focus for the remainder of the year will be towards both the SATS tests in May, and the transition from primary to secondary education later in the year. Please find below a summary of the main learning areas during the second term this year along with some general reminders.

English

Our English lessons this year will be following the National Curriculum covering reading and writing, with a focus on SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). The children will have the opportunity to write in a variety of styles and genres, whilst understanding the intricacies of grammar, and how writing is structured. Our lessons will revolve around key texts, with the first one (soon to be revealed to the children), linking to our topic on the British Empire and exploration. The texts will act as a stimulus for writing, whilst also engaging the children in the reading of quality texts. This term the children will be writing diaries, newspaper reports, recounts, biographies and balanced arguments. Additionally, they will be using their writing skills across the curriculum, in lessons such as Science and Topic.

Maths

As with English, our Maths lessons will be following the National Curriculum. The term will begin with a focus on decimals, before looking at percentages, algebra, and shape and space, which includes perimeter, area and volume. Maths lessons will be driven by investigation, with the children encouraged to explain their thinking by reasoning, and problem solving on a regular basis. There will also be regular arithmetic work, as the children refine their mental and written methods for all four operations (+, -, x, ÷).

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

The children will have weekly sessions with Mrs Street in which they will learn about the culture of France as well as learning to understand and speak simple phrases.

P.E.

Year 6 will have PE sessions every Wednesday with Mr Franco. The children will be changing for PE at school so need to come to school in normal uniform with their kit in their bag: please ensure your child's PE kit is in school every Wednesday and they are prepared for the unpredictable autumn weather. PE kit is a plain white t-shirt or polo shirt, black shorts or joggers, a plain outdoor jumper (when the weather requires it), outdoor trainers suitable for both field and playground (these must be different shoes to the ones your child wears to school) and a water bottle.

Topic

This term our topic will be focused on looking at the history of the British Empire and exploration. The children will be learning about important people, places and events, focusing specifically on a key journey in history (that will soon be revealed to the children). Our topic will feed into other subjects, from English and Maths through to Art and Science.

Trips / Visits

Across the term, the children will be participating in a number of visits and trips. In January, we will be visited by the London Museum of Archaeology (MOLA) to look at archaeology and the current excavations along the new A428. On 17th January, the children will be visiting the O2 arena in London as part of Young Voices 2023, where they will be singing and dancing as part of the world's largest choir. On 25th January, the children will be visiting London again to attend the Royal Opera House to see The Magic Flute. In March, the class will be travelling to

Cambridge to visit Magdalene College to participate in a science morning, before travelling to the Scott Polar Museum to find out more about Antarctic exploration.

Homework

English spelling homework will be handed out each Wednesday to be returned the following Monday. We expect the children to take care to learn these spellings in preparation for a spelling test the following week, as well as writing out sentences in their homework book using their best presentation skills.

For **Maths** homework, the children will be using two online resources. The first is Maths Whizz (www.whizz.com), an online maths education website that is tailored to each individual child. The Maths Whizz week will start each Monday, and **45 minutes** should be completed by each Sunday evening. The second site is Times Tables Rock Stars (ttrockstars.com) which is an online game for learning and reciting times tables. This is available to use on a laptop, or an app you can download to a tablet or smart phone. Children need to spend **at least 15 minutes** practising their tables. If your child does not have access to the internet, there will be a homework club after school where they can complete their Maths Whizz and TT Rock Stars homework (please refer to the after-school club letter for dates and times).

Reading: In Year 6, children need to read for the equivalent of at least 20-30 minutes every school night (it might be that some nights they read more than other nights). They need to complete their reading diary each time they read. We would very much appreciate you listening to your child read and discussing their book with them. The children should write a comment in their book and we request that you sign it too. This will really help them to progress in reading and writing. Reading diaries will be checked every day, so we value any feedback you can provide us with.

If you have any questions, please do come and speak to us as we are always happy to help. There will be fortnightly curriculum newsletters to keep you updated and informed about your child's learning, particularly in English and Maths, with further information around updates, notices and transition information (when required). There will be regular updates over the term on our class pages on the school website, plus information on our Class Dojo and Facebook pages.

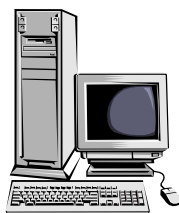
We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead and thank you in advance for your continued support.
Miss Smith, Mr Gross, Mrs Lee and Miss Stokes

Spring Term Curriculum Topics for Year 6



Topic

The children will be learning about the British Empire, with our learning covering many key subjects (including history and geography). We will be looking closely at a key journey in exploration (soon to be revealed to the children) using two high quality texts.



ICT

While improving their skills (especially in word processing), the children will also evaluate the benefits and challenges of the internet. There will be a focus on appropriate use and how to stay safe online.



Science

Our first topic is *Light*, where the children will be looking at how we see, the eye itself, plus reflection and refraction. They will then look at the human body including the impact of exercise and diet.



Art and DT

This term we will be using our DT skills to create pop up books using a range of mechanisms and devices. We will also study the artist Nerys Levy and recreate some of her work.



Geography

The focus will be on investigating the physical and human features associated with different geographical regions, but specifically the Polar Regions. The children will be learning about different time zones across the world and the impact of climate change.



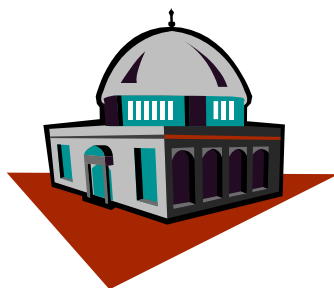
Music

This term the children will be attending the Young Voices choir in London, and be learning the songs and dances in class. Later in the term, the children will be learning how to play the recorder.



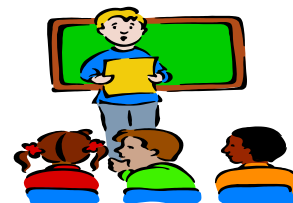
PE

This term, Mr Franco will be covering gymnastics and fitness skills. The children will also take part in a DLPT sports event and will learn about healthy lifestyles.



RE

In our RE sessions, the children will learn about the main religions from across the world, different religious celebrations, and how people celebrate different religious festivals.



PHSE

Across the term, the children will be looking at different aspects of their health and wellbeing, including the impact of sleep, healthy eating, managing feelings and the importance of rest and relaxation.