



Thursday 10th January 2019

Year 6 Newsletter

Dear Parents/carers,

Firstly, I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas & New Year holiday and I can't believe how quickly our first term in Year 6 has gone! Before we know it we'll be packing our bags for the action packed trip to Robin Wood, celebrating the end of the summer term with the leavers' show and not to mention the party night too! So with High School on the horizon, I'm hoping that your child can continue to make the good progress that I've seen from them during the Autumn term.

This term will be just as busy as ever. Our first class text that we will use is Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo which will be used throughout our English work to develop: reading, grammar, punctuation, spelling and writing skills. We've also identified from Autumn term assessments that virtually all pupils were finding the following very tricky aspects of grammar and punctuation difficult:

- Perfect tense & Progressive tense
- Sub-Ordinating or Co-ordinating conjunctions
- Subjunctive forms
- Explaining different meaning of sentences with commas in different positions
- Active and Passive voice
- Determiners
- Antonyms
- Using dashes and hyphens
- Prepositions
- Possessive pronouns.

Consequently, we have tailored part of our spring term curriculum to focus in on these challenging aspects of the new curriculum, to give them the best possible chance to succeed in their SAT's assessments and to help them be fully prepared for year 7. **SAT's week** takes place this year from **Monday 13th – Thursday 16th May** this year. In order to further support your child, school has also ordered 3 new revision workbooks from Rising Stars (one for reading; another for grammar, punctuation and spelling; and one for maths). These workbooks will be given out very soon and will involve the pupils being set additional homework to that of the existing: reading, spelling and TT Rockstars.

NEW Homework timetable:

Monday:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maths Workbook pages set
Wednesday:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling workbook pages set• Spellings to learn at home given out (in orange home journals)
Friday:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading workbook pages set

For each of the homework tasks set (approximately 20-40 mins) pupils will be given 1 week to complete them and we will mark these tasks together in class the following week. So, Maths workbooks will be due back in on Mondays, GPS workbooks on Wednesdays and Reading workbooks due back on Fridays a week after they've been set.

These additional homework tasks are designed to help best prepare your child for the tests they'll take in the summer and for their future education at their respective high schools too. Hopefully you'll be able to support your child to remember to keep up to date with these whilst also encouraging them to become more independent in terms of them remembering to pack them in their own bags on the correct days etc.

In Maths we will cover a range of topics focusing mainly on pupils' reasoning (problem-solving!) skills. We will obviously continue to refine our arithmetic skills, however I'm pleased to say that most pupils in the class have already excelled in this area & for them it is just a case of 'keeping their hand in'. Maths topics that we have been identified as problematic for most children in the class and subsequently we will cover this term will include:

- A range of Word problems (involving multi-step and inverse operation calculations, Fractions, intervals of time, lengths, masses, capacities, etc)
- 3-D shapes (nets & volumes)
- Averages (mode, median, mean)
- Estimating & rounding
- Ratio and Proportion
- Fractions (including ordering)

Our Science and Topic work will continue to be mainly covered by Mrs Buckroyd. Evolution and Inheritance will be our new Science topic and our History & Geography work will cover a range of interesting topics linked to our class book(s). PE sessions this term will see us working with Coach Gunn for Basketball on a Tuesday and Tag Rugby with Mr Weston on Friday. Please can I remind you that the new routine for PE days is for the children to come in to school in their uniform & to bring their PE kit with them to change into (another little step towards becoming more organised for high school). We will also be continuing with our 'Daily Mile' running sessions – I must say the children in year 6 are excelling at this (most of them lap me now too!).

Diary Dates:

- WEDNESDAY 16th JANUARY from 2-3pm for our Year 6 Parents Event (a chance to come & see first-hand what we've been learning about)
- THURSDAY 7th MARCH - Trip to Bradford Literature Festival event (Free & further details to follow nearer the time)

Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in your child's final year here at Harden Primary.

Yours sincerely

Mr Weston.