



# Year 6 - Summer 2023 Newsletter



Welcome to the final and most exciting term of our school year in Class 6. Our Key Stage 2 SATs are fast approaching and we are very busy in preparation for the big event. All of the children are working extremely hard, taking on board responsibility for their own learning and they will, we are sure, continue to strive towards their goals in their final term at St. Stephen's. It is a popular myth (invented by children, I think) that education, as we know it, stops after SATs. However, life in Class 6 will once again return to 'normal' when our SATs tests are over. We are looking forward to continuing with our writing and catching up on lots of creative activities through, for example, Science experiments, D.T and P.E. (We hope the weather is kind to us so that we can use the outdoor environment as much as possible.) Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say it has been a pleasure to work with you and your children for the past two years. They are a lovely group of young people and being part of their learning journey has been a true privilege for me. We wish them all the very best as they move on with their lives and meet new challenges.

Mrs Binks and all the staff who work with us in Class 6.

## Our curriculum

**Writing-** In our writing sessions we will begin by finishing off our unit based on 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold before moving onto our next unit which is based upon 'Grimm Tales for Young and Old as told by Phillip Pullman'. This sequence of lessons will get the children to examine a range of Grimm Tales, look closely at the common characteristics, analyse the language, characterisation and common story structures, before writing their own Grimm Tale, planning for a balance of dialogue and narrative and use devices to advance the action quickly.

**Science-** Within Science, the children will continue to learn about a range of forces: gravity, air resistance, friction and water resistance. Children will be able to identify the effects they have that act between moving surfaces.

**DT/Art-** Children will explore South America, with a particular focus on carnivals. They will then be researching, designing and creating their own carnival masks.

**History-** This term, the children will continue to investigate a significant turning point in British history: the Battle of Britain. They will gain an overview of the battle, finding out where it fits on a timeline, and explore the main events leading up to the battle and the battle itself. They will then look at the people and things that played a part in the Battle of Britain.

**Geography-** Within Geography, the children will explore California, a state located in the west coast of the USA. The children will reflect upon what makes California special and unique. They will learn about California's origin, physical landscape, man-made features, climate and economy.

## Diary Dates

|  |   |
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| Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> April               | Children back at school   |
| Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> May                  | School closed - BANK HOLIDAY                                    |
| Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> May                  | Celebration of the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III   |
| Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> May                  | School closed - BANK HOLIDAY                                    |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> May   | Year 6 SATs week  |
| Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> May                 | 10.00am - Year 4 Open Worship in school 'Ascension & Pentecost' |
| Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> May                 | Kingsway meeting for Year 6 parents - 3.30pm                    |
| Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> May                 | Last Day of Summer 1  |
| Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> June                 | Back to school after the half term break                        |
| Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> June                 | Year 6 Leaver's Service at Durham Cathedral                     |
| Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> June                | Diversity Well-Being Day  |
| W/B 19 <sup>th</sup> June                | Aspirations week  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> June | Year 6 at Kingsway Residential Centre                           |
| W/B 26 <sup>th</sup> June                | Assessment week in school                                       |
| Thu 6 <sup>th</sup> July                 | Years 1-6 Sports day - 1.15pm                                   |
| Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> July                | Year 6 Parkside Induction                                       |
| Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> July                | 'Moving up' day in school                                       |
| Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> July                | Reports out   |
| Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> July                | Year 6 Leaver's Disco at Cricket Club - 7pm to 10pm             |
| Tue 18 <sup>th</sup> July                | 10.00am - Year 5 Open Worship - dedicated to Year 6             |
| Tue 18 <sup>th</sup> July                | Y3/Y4/Y5 & Y6 Parents Evening - 3.30pm to 6.00pm                |
| Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> July                | Year 6 Leaver's Service at St Stephen's Church - 6.00pm         |
| Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> July                | Year 6 Leaver's Service in school - 9.15am                      |
|  | School breaks up for Summer Holidays                            |
| Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> July                | Children return to school on Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 |

## Drinking Water in School

As you know research has shown that children perform better in school if they drink between 6-8 glasses of water a day. For this reason we encourage children to bring a bottle of water to school, which they may drink in class. Plain water is best however, we understand that some children will not drink plain water so we are happy for them to bring weak juice. **We must ask that children do not bring fizzy water.** If you have any queries or concerns about this matter please contact me. We greatly appreciate your support.



## P.E.

On Tuesdays, children will need to come to school in full P.E. kit. This must include trainers, jogger/leggings and some sort of jumper /hoody, as when possible PE will take place outdoors.

## Summer

As we know the British weather can be very unpredictable. We would appreciate it if your child could come to school with sun cream and a hat in the Summer months.

## Leavers Service

Once SAT's are finished the preparation for the leavers service will begin. This year has gone by so quickly! If possible, we would like the children to bring in a photograph of themselves which shows them in their younger years.

Children are allowed to wear one pair of small stud pierced earrings except for the days when they have PE or swimming. On these days we will be insisting that earrings must not be worn for school and they should be removed by the parent or child at home. Covering earrings with tape will no longer be permitted as it does not ensure safe participation in sports activities.

If parents wish for their child to have their ears pierced, then it is best to be done at the beginning of the 6 weeks holiday so that they can then be removed for PE at the beginning of the Autumn term.

Nail varnish, false nails, make up, hair dye or temporary tattoos must not be worn for school.