

Les Landes School

Rue des Cosnets
St Ouen
Jersey
JE3 2BJ



Friday 10th September 2021

Year 6

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 6! I hope you had a fun-filled summer holiday and that your child is feeling relaxed and ready for the Autumn Term.

During the first few weeks, I will be spending time getting to know the class and establishing expectations. As a class we will write our 'Class Charter' together and we will discuss behaviour expectations for the year ahead. Our 'Class Charter' will link to the 'United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,' so that children can become more familiar with their rights and of what they can do to ensure that others enjoy theirs.

This letter is to inform you of the main curriculum areas that will be covered this term as we are not able to meet for 'Meet the Teacher'. As a class we will be focusing on problem solving in all areas of the curriculum to develop independence, responsibility, and autonomy in preparation for secondary school next year.

English

Throughout the term we will be looking at variety of books that link to our history topic – WW2 and The Occupation. We will be starting the year by covering the picture book 'The Arrival'. Our final written outcome will be a third person narrative focusing on expanded noun phrases, modal verbs, and punctuation including full stops and commas. Following on from this, we will be looking at the story 'The Water Tower'. Throughout this text we will be focusing on a building on the sophistication of our writing through including higher level punctuation. In the second half term, we will be focusing on 'Letters from the Lighthouse' in depth. Throughout this text we will be focusing on a range of reading skills and writing a mystery narrative. This text will be our Guided Reading text for the term so the children will study the text as a reader before exploring it more detail as a writer.

Spellings will be set weekly each Monday and will be tested on a Friday. Each week will have a different focus and will reflect the spelling rule that children have been learning that week in class. Please support your child with practising these regularly.

We will continue to work on handwriting throughout Year 6, aiming to achieve a pen licence once children are confident in all joins, use punctuation correctly and have consistent sized letters, with clear ascenders and descenders.

Maths

In Maths this term, we will be looking at the following: place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and position and direction of shape.

The children will continue to secure their times tables using 'Times Tables Rock Stars', they will be able to access this at home. Times Tables Rock Stars is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice with a rock star theme. Each week concentrates on a different times table, with a recommended consolidation week for rehearsing the tables that have recently been practiced every third week or so. This should be accessed at home however it will also be timetabled in during school time to help develop your child's confidence and rapid recall of the tables up 12.

Computing

This term we will be learning to program using Scratch as well as developing our ICT skills in various programs. In E-safety, we will be looking at Cyberbullying.

At all times, children are expected to follow the 'Acceptable Use Policy' which is displayed clearly in the classroom and in the ICT suite. We will revisit it at the start of this term as well.

Other Subjects

Mrs White will be teaching the Science topics for the first term which are 'Animals, including humans' and 'Living Things' in which we will study micro-organisms. In the second half term, we will be learning about 'Evolution and Inheritance'.

Mrs Searson will be teaching R.E. and Music in Year 6 on a Wednesday each week. During the first term, our R.E. topic is 'Christian and Buddhist beliefs and practices'. Mrs Price will be teaching French on a Thursday afternoon.

P.E days will be on Monday and Friday in the Hall or outside weather dependent. During the first term, we will be focussing on develop the children's locomotion skills though athletics. Our second topic will be developing throwing and catching though handball and netball variations. The children will need their PE kit. This is a navy blue polo shirt, navy blue shorts, white or black socks and white trainers. Children may choose to wear their tracksuit over the top. Earrings and watches will be removed for safety reasons.

As you already know, Jersey Sport are running **Bikeability** sessions for Year 6 this term. For this, the children will need to have a bike in good working order and a helmet. The children should also wear PE kit on the day they take part in this programme.

Homework

Reading: Please encourage your child to read at home every day for **15 minutes**. This can be their school library book or a book of their choice from home. Please record this with a **signature** from an adult in their Reading Record to acknowledge that you have heard/seen them read. Your child will need to complete a **reading activity every two weeks** and reading records will be checked on this day. The tasks are stuck in the front of their Reading Record and should be completed in them. The short activity is designed to take just 20minutes and should be done every other week.

Spellings: Please support your child with learning their weekly spellings. Spellings will be set on a Monday and tested on a Friday.

Maths: Times Tables Rock Stars should be accessed at home as part of your child's homework at least three times per week. There is a free app which can be downloaded or a laptop or PC can be used. Rapid recall of times tables could also be encouraged at home. This could include singing them in the car or quick fire questions!

Another important homework task is practising mental maths activities including telling the time, quick mental addition, and subtraction of numbers up to 100, memorising multiplication tables, and learning number bonds to 1000. Doubling and halving are also important skills for the children to practice and increase their fluency.

The children will be given a project homework based around our history topic of WW2 and the Occupation. There are 9 categories to choose from. They are expected to complete at least 3 activities. It is expected that each homework task will be completed with care and to the best of their ability – Dojo Points will be awarded for effort and quality!

Please ensure spelling books and reading records are in school each day – please support your child to be organised with these.

Additional Information

This week we are starting CATs testing in Year 6. These are a series of short tests developed to support schools in understanding abilities and likely academic potential. All schools in Jersey carry out these tests. They assess reasoning with words, shapes and designs, numbers, and manipulating shapes. We will get the results of the tests later in the term; I will share your child's results with you at parent consultations. Later in the year, the children will be completing SATs tests. The SATs are more formal tests that all children in England and Jersey undertake (though they haven't taken place for the last two academic year due to Covid-19). SATs test consist of Maths, Reading and SP@G tests that take place after Easter. Over the course of the year, the children will be introduced to SATs styled questions to become more familiar and practice exam conditions.

Pencil Cases – In Year 6 it is a privilege to be allowed to bring in a pencil case to use in class. The children will be reminded that they must use only their own equipment and not share it with others. The essential equipment for a pencil case would be: handwriting/fountain pen (when pen licence has been given and/or ink eraser/eraser rubber), HB pencils, coloured pencils, pencil sharpener, highlighters, rubber, 30cm ruler and a green biro pen. Your child may also want to have a pritt-stick and a couple of different coloured pens in their pencil case, but these are not essential.

Important Dates:

Monday 13th September – Bikeability Level 1 refresher.

Thursday 16th – Tuesday 21st September – CATS

Wednesday 22nd September – Safety in Action (9:00am-12:00pm at Les Ormes. More information closer to the time).

Monday 20th – Friday 24th September - Bikeability Level 2 Group 1.

Monday 4th – Friday 8th October - Bikeability Level 2 Group 2.

Monday 11th – Friday 15th October - Bikeability Level 2 Group 3

Monday 11th October – History Project Homework 1

Tuesday 2nd November – WW2 Day (more information will be sent closer to the time!)

Monday 8th November – History Project Homework 2

Monday 6th December - History Project Homework 2

Positive Behaviour

In line with the school's positive behaviour policy, we will be rewarding the children for demonstrating the school values. Once achieving different milestones, the children will receive a reward. They will come home with a sticker so they can celebrate their success with you!

Finally, in preparation for secondary school, I would appreciate support in encouraging your child to be organised and responsible for themselves, work, and belongings. I hope that you have found the above information useful. Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any queries or questions throughout the term. I am really looking forward to getting to know all the Year 6 families this year.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr J Gallichan

j.gallichan@leslandes.sch.je

