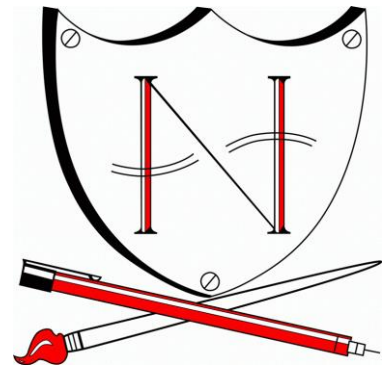


Year 6 Induction Leaflet 2020-21



Friday 18th September 2020

Dear parents/carers,

The start of this year is a little

different (to put it mildly!) from other

years and so we are unable to do some of the things that we would normally do. We are not able to run a Year 6 induction meeting at this time, so this information aims to give a brief insight into what life will look like in Year 6 this year. At present, we are planning for Year 6 to be as close to 'normal' as usual, but this can of course change as the medical situation changes. The children have made a fantastic start to the year – they have come in ready to learn and to enjoy themselves and have settled quickly into the new routines of school life. At this time, the best way to communicate with us in Year 6 is by email and so if you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Welcome to Year 6

As your child enters their final year at Northmead, a fantastic time lies ahead. Year 6 is the year in which children take on more responsibility (both in terms of roles within the school and of their own learning) and they mature into young people ready for secondary school. Year 6 is often seen to be dominated by the SATs and by the Isle of Wight trip; one of which children look forward to, one of which they don't! These are both important events in the year, but there is a great deal going on besides, from lead roles in the school play (a summer version this time!) to being a Junior Librarian. Year 6 is an exciting year to be a part of; we sincerely hope that you and your child are looking forward to it.

Staffing

Miss Katherine Kay in 6KP 6kp@northmead.surrey.sch.uk

Mrs Lisa Mansfield and Mrs Abby Diot in 6MD 6md@northmead.surrey.sch.uk

Mr Alastair Kemp in 6K 6k@northmead.surrey.sch.uk

Groups

Normally in Year 6 we run streamed English and Maths groups; at this time, following guidance from the Athena Trust, we are operating in class based bubbles and are reviewing this situation constantly.

English and Maths

By the end of Year 6 we want children to enjoy reading a range of texts; to be able to retrieve information from a passage; to make and begin to justify opinions about something they have read and to discuss author intention. We want children to be able to write with fluency and detail in a variety of fiction and non-fiction styles. We also want children to be able to tell the time, deal with money and be able to read a timetable. Children will leave Year 6 with a method for solving mathematical problems using all four operations; will be able to apply their mathematical knowledge and will explain their reasoning effectively.



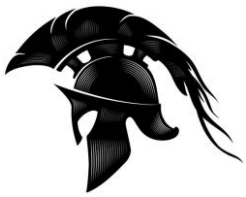
The Year Ahead

It is always helpful to have an idea of what your child might be doing at school, if only to stop conversations which run: "What did you do at school today?"

“Nothing!”

So here is a brief guide to what we cover during the year:

AUTUMN TERM



History Topic: Ancient Greece. This is a vast, varied and fascinating topic. We study life in Athens and Sparta, including the concept of democracy; the battles of Marathon and Thermopylae; gods and goddesses; the Greek myths; the ancient Olympics and a little bit of philosophy!

English: Story writing; discussion texts (linked to Ancient Greek debate); recounts and poetry.

Maths: 4 operations (+, -, x, ÷); fractions – of shapes and of numbers; shape – 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional; coordinates and measures (weights and lengths).

Science: Classification and Electricity

SPRING TERM

Geography Topic: The Greenwich Meridian.

We learn about history of the Greenwich (or prime) meridian and the different countries which lie along it.

Each child will choose a country from on the meridian and each week will research a different aspect of that country. These include: famous cities, landmarks and people; culture and traditions; education; food and drink; the climate.

English: Fiction writing – extended story development; non-fiction writing (autobiographies, reports, explanations and revisiting areas from the autumn).

Maths: The structure of our Maths teaching in this term follows that of the autumn term, the guiding principle being that children are now ready to be extended further. More advanced algebra work and number patterns will be introduced during the course of the term.

Science: Healthy Living and Evolution & Inheritance



SUMMER TERM



History Topic: Power and the People - a study of the British monarchy from 1066 to the present day. Our focus is on six monarchs - William I, Richard I, John, Charles I, Victoria and Elizabeth II - and the changing balance of power between the king and queen and the people.

English: Short stories; formal and informal writing (letters); poetry.

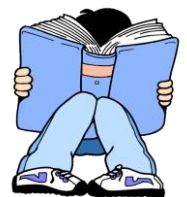
Maths: The first half of the term is devoted to what individual children and their groups need in order to be fully prepared for the SATs test. Once the tests are done, the focus in Maths turns to extended investigations (in which children plan and carry out their own work).

Science: Light

How can you help?

Reading

One of the main ways you can help your child is to read with them at home. Encouraging your child to read a range of different texts, from fiction books to newspapers to recipes, can improve their English enormously. Talking with your child about what they are doing at school and about what they are reading is also extremely beneficial. Below are some questions you may find useful when encouraging your child to think about what they have just read.



Can you summarise what you have just read?
What does this word mean?
What words could be used to describe the setting/character/scenario?
Why did the author use this word?
What do you think will happen next?
Would you recommend this to someone? Why?

At this time, we are not sending Reading Records home; instead, reading will be recorded using Google Classroom. We ask that the children record their reading at least three times a week. Children will continue to use the **Accelerated Reader** scheme to determine their reading ability and to take quizzes on the books they have read. Books borrowed from the library will be quarantined before being returned into circulation.

Homework

Discussing and encouraging children with their homework is also very helpful. Maths and English homework in Year 6 is meant as a means of consolidation for work done in class. If your child is struggling with their homework, please contact the group teacher. Topic homework can take many forms: from finishing off a piece of work from class to in-depth research. If you are finding that homework is becoming a battleground, please just let us know and we can attempt to resolve the issue in school.



All homework at this time will be issued using Google Classroom. If you have any issues with accessing the work or uploading and recording homework, please email your child's teacher. Children will receive English, Maths and topic homework each week, as well as spellings and times tables practice.

Children will continue to have access online to the **TRockstars** program – this is a fantastic way for the children to improve their tables knowledge. <https://trockstars.com/>

Keep in contact

Please do contact us if you have any concerns or queries about any aspect of your child's school life. Year 6 is a challenging and rewarding year and we need your support to help every child make the most of it. 6kp@northmead.surrey.sch.uk 6md@northmead.surrey.sch.uk 6k@northmead.surrey.sch.uk

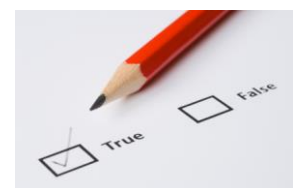
Please do check the school website for updates about upcoming events: www.northmead.surrey.sch.uk

Behaviour

We expect Year 6 children to be role models for the rest of the school, both in the way they behave and in what they say. We will keep you fully informed with any concerns or issues we have with your child's behaviour. This year we have introduced a new set of core values for the school: Ready, Respectful, Safe. These values underpin the expectations for the children in school and our approach to dealing with any behaviour issues.

SATs

The Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) are a national week of tests for children in Year 6. They will take place from 10th - 13th May 2021. These tests are nothing to be worried about; the children will be extremely well prepared and the tests should be seen as an opportunity to show what they can do. A meeting for parents in March will give further details about the week. Please do not book a holiday during this period.



Trips and Events

We have been advised not to organise trips in the autumn term, but we are planning, at this time, to reintroduce trips in the spring term (this is of course subject to change).

Drug Awareness Workshop – February 2021

Guildford Flames come to school to talk about life as a professional ice hockey player and to deliver their 'Drug Freeze' programme.

Houses of Parliament – March 2021

To introduce the Summer Term topic, we plan to visit the Houses of Parliament and take part in a law making workshop.

Junior Citizen Workshops – June 2021

Organised by Surrey County Council, these workshops are delivered by members of the emergency services and different departments from the Council with the aim of educating children about the dangers they may encounter in their local community.

Isle of Wight Residential: 5th – 9th July 2021



We have provisionally booked our Isle of Wight trip with the expectation (and hope!) that we will be able to go in July. We will provide more information about the trip in October.

Cost: approximately £300. The Isle of Wight is a fantastic trip for the children in Year 6 to finish their time at Northmead. It is a brilliant opportunity for children to experience a completely different environment to that of school: to stay in a hotel, play on the beach, visit English Heritage sites, ride a chairlift and go to a theme park. We would love every child in Year 6 to go on the trip, but realise that being away from home does not suit everyone

and the trip is therefore optional. If your child does not come on the trip a full programme of teaching will be provided at school.

Clubs

Currently there is a multi-sports club being run on Mondays for Year 6 by Planet Soccer and a football club being run on Fridays. We also run Morning Milers, our before school running club, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. As the medical situation changes, we hope to offer more extra-curricular activities for Year 6.

What Now?

Information about how to access Google Classroom, TTRockstars and Charanga Music (an online resource for children to access to supplement the music teaching in school) will be coming home. If you have any issues accessing the online resources, and especially Google Classroom and the homework assignments which will be on it, please inform your child's teacher. If you have any questions in general about Year 6, please email 6K@northmead.surrey.sch.uk.

The children have made a brilliant start to Year 6 and we are thoroughly looking forward to the year ahead. As always, effective communication between school and home is essential for maximising the progress the children make in the year. Please do contact your child's teacher, or Mr Kemp, with any concerns or issues you have.

Alastair Kemp 6K@northmead.surrey.sch.uk

Lisa Mansfield and Abby Diot 6MD@northmead.surrey.sch.uk

Katherine Kay 6KP@northmead.surrey.sch.uk