

Year 6 – Spring Newsletter



**All Souls' Catholic  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Happy new year to all! I hope everyone enjoyed a great Christmas break. I would like to thank you all for the cards and very generous gifts, they were very much appreciated. Thank you!

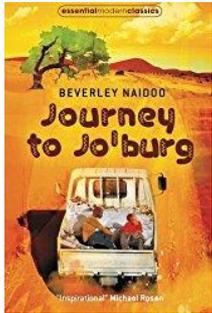
The whole class settled in to Year 6 very well last term. They have enjoyed taking on more responsibility around school and have made a strong start to their final year at All Souls'. The highlights of the term included:

- Plas Dol-Y-Moch – an exhilarating trip and a great experience for everyone
- SolarFest – Year 6 visited the University of Warwick to learn about the science of the Sun
- Christingle – performing at Coventry Cathedral as part of the Christingle service
- Meeting, getting to know and looking after their Prayer Friends
- Continuing to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Learning about Ancient Egypt in History
- Orienteering in the local area

This term is another busy one as we continue to work through the comprehensive Year 6 curriculum and prepare for the end of Key Stage 2 SATs tests and the Sacrament of Confirmation. As the children continue to move through their final year, the expectations of them continue to rise. In order for them to gain the very most from the coming months, they will be expected work hard, work quickly and be efficient with their time. This may include using some of their own time (break, lunch and at home) to finish off incomplete work or undertake additional tasks aimed specifically at helping them progress.

I hope the children are aware that their hard work will be very worthwhile and that ultimately all anyone can ask is for them to give maximum effort.

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English		Maths		Science	
<i>Journey to Jo'burg</i> by Beverley Naidoo 		<b>Multiplicative Reasoning - including:</b> Multiplying, dividing and identifying the value of decimals. <b>Number Sense - including:</b> Calculating percentages. Solving problems involving converting units of measure. Using fractions, decimals and percentages in different contexts. <b>Geometric Reasoning - including:</b> Comparing and classifying geometric shapes. Describing and building simple 3-D shapes. Calculating area and volume.		<i>Living Things and their Habitats</i> 	
RE	PE	History	Geography	Computing	DT
Christmas Lent Holy Week	Badminton (Tuesday) Gymnastics (Wednesday)	Mayans	'Where am I?' Developing map skills and locational knowledge	Using HTML to create web pages	Upcycling clothes
					<b>Art</b> Textiles

Key informationHomework

As you are aware, the amount of homework that the children now receive has been reduced. This is to try and help children focus more on improving and maintaining their basic skills (reading, spelling and times tables) while away from school rather than lengthy homework tasks.

On Mondays, Year 6 are given a times tables homework task which should be handed in on the following Friday. They also receive their spelling list on Mondays and will be tested on these on the following Friday.

A new homework task is also being introduced this term. Children will receive some maths problem solving questions on a Monday to hand in on the following Friday. Some children will also be invited to discuss these problems before school begins on a Friday morning (8:00am). The purpose of this is to help with their preparation for two of the SATs Maths tests that focus on mathematical reasoning.

Reading

A key part of the homework that is expected of children is their reading at home. It is vital that children read regularly in order to develop their reading fluency, stamina and understanding of what they read. This helps children to access all areas of the Year 6 curriculum as well as helping to prepare them for SATs. All pupils are expected to read for around 10-15 minutes every day outside of school. To monitor your child's progress in reading, their Reading Record should be signed and kept up to date. Reading Records will be collected in and checked every Monday. There should be a minimum of 5 entries and 3 of them should involve your child being heard read aloud. To help with the development of your child's reading, the adult who is listening to them can ask questions to see how well they are understanding the text. Consider asking:

- What they think will happen next and why,

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- Whether they are enjoying the book, what they like/dislike,
- What some of the unfamiliar words mean,
- What the characters are like and how they know this,
- How well do they think the author has described the setting,
- Can they summarise the latest page/chapter?

**Sacrament of Confirmation**

Firstly, I would like to take this chance to say a huge well done to all the children for their excellent work so far in the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmandi have received many compliments for their work and their delivery of the homilies during Family Masses. I would also like to thank the parents for their continued support in this, it is very much appreciated.

The children are now in the process of choosing their Confirmation Saint name. This is an important stage in their preparation they have been given the task of researching their saint in detail before making their choice. Further to this, a 'Speed Saining' event will be held at school (Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March) where you will get chance to speak to the children about who they have chosen as their Confirmation Saint and the reasons for their choice. This event will also give the children another chance to showcase their hard work.

Confirmation is due to take place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

*The dates of upcoming Confirmation events are:*

- **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March – 9:15 - Family Mass (Passover and Politics)**
- **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March – 17:00 – Baptism and Belonging followed by Mass**
- **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March – 20:00-21:30 – Easter Vigil, Baptism and Mass**
- **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April – 9:30 – Sacrament of Confirmation**

**SATs**

As you are aware, Year 6 are required to participate in the end of Key Stage 2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) which identify the attainment of children in Reading, Writing and Mathematics for national comparison.

The SATs exams will take place on the following dates:

- **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May – English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2**
- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May - English reading comprehension**
- **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)**
- **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)**

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The class has already completed several past papers in preparation and they are currently in the process of working through these test papers looking closely at how they can improve.

Some parents have asked about resources for additional support at home. We can recommend books published by *CGP* and *Collins* that are based on KS2 SATs. However, rest assured that the children will be fully prepared for the tests and that everyone is working very hard towards them.

Finally, SATs are not something which either you or your child should be worried about. They should be approached as an opportunity to showcase everything they have learned throughout their time in Key Stage 2.

**School Website**

Please continue to visit Year 6's class page on the school website to see what we have been up to by reading our blog and looking at our gallery.

**Summary of key information**

Day	Information
Monday	Reading Record handed in Spelling lists handed out Times tables homework handed out
Tuesday	PE – Badminton
Friday	PE – Gymnastics Spelling test

**Dates for the diary:**

- **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5 and 6 Ice Skating Trip**
- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Trip to Coombe Abbey (Science)**
- **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Mid Year Report Cards issues**
- **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March – ‘Speed Sainting’ (15:15 – 16:00)**
- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Trip to the Belgrade Theatre to watch Annie**



Many thanks,

John Marsh