

## Diary Dates

19th Jan: 1.45pm  
KS2 Talent Show Final

6th Feb  
Safer Internet Day

9th Feb: INSET DAY

12th - 15th Feb:  
HALF TERM

19th Feb:  
Return to school

5th and 7th March:  
Parents Evening  
3.30 – 6.40

7th March:  
World Book Day

15th March:  
Red Nose Day

5th March  
Holy Week

28th March:  
Crucifixion  
6T 9.15 6S 10.30

28th March:  
Last Day of Term

29th Mar – 14th Apr  
Easter

15th April  
Return to school

### Communication

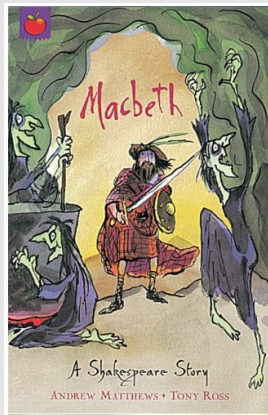
We will keep you updated via Seesaw.

However, one of the Y6 team is always available.

Please come and see us if there is anything to discuss.

# Happy New Year!

The Year 6 team would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. It's another very busy and exciting term ahead, which will build on all of the hard work put in place during the Autumn. Over the first 4 months, we have been impressed as the standard of work and confidence of the children has built. More exciting opportunities this term will add to the learning experiences and memories.



*Over the Spring term, we will be looking closely at The Tudor Period and how this time shaped our country. Alongside this, we will be reading Shakespeare's classic, Macbeth (abridged version). The children will study the change in Macbeth's character and explore the effects of greed, power, guilt and justice. The text creates many exciting writing opportunities for the children and they will finish the Spring Term with lots of pieces to be proud of.*

**RE:** Three topics are covered this term: **Sources, Unity and Death and New Life.** The focus will be to be able to identify and explain how our beliefs are inspired by the Bible. They will also understand the importance of friendships within our faith and be able to describe and explain the meaning and purpose of a variety of forms of worship. On the last day of term (28th Mar), each class will re-enact the crucifixion as part of Holy week – we very much hope you will be able to attend in person

In **English**, we will continue to develop a wide range of skills in a wide range of writing styles, extending the children's creativity, resilience and knowledge. There will be an increased grammar focus, covering more of the grammatical terminology required, ensuring the children are familiar with, and can identify, what is expected of them (**See accompanying Grammar mat**) Often things have very fancy names but are quite straight forward and they use them anyway!

In **Maths**, as always, there will be a strong number focus. We are revisiting many of the topics from the Autumn term, and we will be able to extend the learning further with more challenging reasoning and problem solving. Really consolidating those timetables will have such an impact. There will be continual revision of everything taught over the children's time in KS2.

### Homework

Homework will continue to be set weekly. The hand in date will be on a **Friday** and may include:

- A comprehension
- Grammar Booklet
- Spellings
- Maths: arithmetic and reasoning

### Support

We encourage adult support with homework and you can share different ways that you use or find easier to explain! The new National Curriculum encourages a variety of methods. The children need a way to answer a question and can use any way of doing so.

### Increased volume

The volume of homework will increase and will remain so until May, after which it will ease off. This will hopefully get the children to practise a little of what they have learned in school and also to prepare them for their next year ahead.

### Striking a balance

Homework shouldn't resort in tears and take hours and hours to complete. However, it is important that the children complete as much as they can.

**In History**, Shakespeare's famous tale of Macbeth will be read, and we'll look at Great Britain leading up to, and at the time it was written. The events of the middle ages will be placed onto a timeline and how that compares with what was happening around the rest of the world. We will also look at the infamous Wars of the Roses leading up to the Tudor era and key events of the time.

**In Science**, our new topic is 'Light'. We will conduct experiments on how light travels and the laws of reflection, which will conclude with making our own periscopes having looked closely at the different parts of the eye. **(See Knowledge Mat for details)**

**PE** will continue to be on Thursday. For the first half term, the focus will be gymnastics. Sessions will be in the hall. We are very excited to be introducing weekly Drumba sessions. Make sure you ask your children about them.

**Maths groups:** Over the course of the term we will be splitting into maths groups, either in half or into 3 groups. Groupings are flexible and are to benefit each child's learning style, allowing them to achieve to the best of their ability. The same content will be covered. The difference will be additional support, the pace and repetition of skills covered. This is something we have done over the years and works really well, to the benefit of all children.

### On-line support: TTRockstars, MyON, SpellingShed

Like with most things, some children like them, some don't... However, it is really important to keep the basics ticking over. Encourage your children to keep reading daily- anything and everything. They can access TTRockstars at home and there will always be a MyON project set. It might not be your child's ideal choice but should be an easily accessible read, giving variety, consistency, ability to quiz and support topic work in school.



**SATs:** Even though SATs aren't until May, we will continue to build up towards them through our day-to-day work and homework. We will keep it as low profile as possible for the children. However, a good way to prepare is to use past papers. At the end of each half term, we will sit a formal paper which allows us to assess progress, address misconceptions and identify gaps. This is good practice and a chance for the children to address areas they are less confident with. It will help them to sharpen up their test technique.

We have ordered a set of 'CGP Grammar, Punctuation and Spellings, book one' for each of the children. This will be used for homework grammar revision. Should you wish to purchase any reading and maths SATs revision guides, we would recommend either the CGP KS2 Maths/Reading SAT Buster Bundle – Book 1 and/or 2 – on their website. **However, this is not essential.**

