



Owls Class Newsletter - Term 1

Welcome to Year 6! Can you believe those six weeks have flown by already? We hope you all had a wonderful summer break, soaking up the sunshine and making special memories. Now, it's time to begin the final chapter of the primary school journey—and what an exciting year it promises to be!

Back in July, on transition day, when Mrs Turner and I were chatting with the class, they said that they weren't too disappointed about having us as their teachers again (thankfully!), but they were annoyed about staying in the same classroom for another year. So, we asked them what changes they'd like to see. Their top requests? Lots more colour in the room, fairy lights and a fresh furniture layout. We've been busy over the holidays working hard to achieve their requests and hope they're happy with their newly refreshed classroom—their home for their final year at Higham!

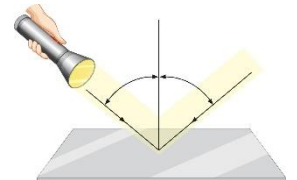
Year 6 will be full of challenges, hard work, achievements and plenty of fun along the way too.

Our Curriculum



Our Autumn Humanities topic is 'Explorers'. During this term, pupils will develop their geographical knowledge of North and South America and then focus more specifically on the Amazon rainforest. They will discover what it is like there, the living things which can be found there and look at how climate change and human action threatens the future of the rainforest.

In Science, our theme this term is 'Light'. In this unit of work, the class will explore the way that light behaves, including light sources, how light travels, laws of reflection and shadows. They will develop their observational skills in order to talk about what happens and make predictions. They will also learn about the functions of different parts of the eye



In art, we will be looking at the work of Ruth Daniels and her use of patterns and colour to create rainforest environments. Pupils will learn to mix colour, shades and tints with confidence and use different mediums such as watercolour paints and inks to compose their own rainforest creations, using small brushes to add fine detail.

PE will take place on **TUESDAY** afternoons. This term, our topic is 'Hockey'. Please ensure children come into school on this day with the correct PE kit. Girls must have their hair tied back and if wearing earrings on that day, they need to be able to remove them for this lesson (a small box to keep them safe in is advisable).



Long term homework is not set formally but if your child is interested in researching something related to our humanities or science topics, they are more than welcome to do so and share their findings with the class. This could be a PowerPoint, poster, pictures, facts or model, for example. Further information about the Year 6 curriculum can be found on the school website.



Spellings / TT Rockstars / Accelerated Reader



Spelling Shed

We are continuing to use Spelling Shed as our school spelling programme. Spellings will be issued every Tuesday (starting from 9th Sept) in the form of a worksheet with the list of words to learn and some suggested activities to complete at home to help them consolidate their learning. The sheet is purely for use at home and does not have to come back into school each week. If this sheet does not make it home, you can also find the whole of the term's spellings listed on the Owls class page of the school website. The children will be tested on their words the following Monday. All pupils have a Spelling Shed account (log in details can be found at the front of their yellow reading record) which they log into at school each week, however they should be logging in at home as well as it gives them access to tasks and online games that can also support them in learning their words each week.

As children enter Year 6, a strong grasp of times tables becomes more important than ever. Quick and confident recall supports success across the maths curriculum—from fractions and division to problem-solving and reasoning. Keeping these skills sharp not only boosts confidence but also helps children tackle more complex concepts with ease. Pupils should continue to use TT Rockstars weekly to complete their set tasks.



In Year 6, the children will continue to use the Accelerated Reading programme. All pupils will be assessed this week to identify their ZPD level and this will be shown in their yellow reading record. The children need to read widely within this range and don't go up a level each time they read a book. They complete a quiz on the book once they've read it thoroughly and this gives an indication of your child's comprehension level. Quizzes can only be done in school. The aim is to score 100% in a quiz (this earns them 5 house points). If pupils are consistently scoring under 60%, they may be asked to select books at a lower range to ensure that they are actually understanding what they are reading, not just reading the words and ploughing through books. They are aiming to keep their average above 85% across the term and merits are awarded for achieving this.

We have an Accelerated Reading session almost every day, when myself, Mrs Turner or other adults hear children read individually. Please ensure that your child brings their reading book and reading record into school every day and feel free to write in it whenever you read with your child at home too.

Dates for the diary

- Thursday 4th Sept - Meet the teacher presentation (after school for about 20 mins)
- Thursday 11th Sept - Kent Test (11+) in school
- Mon 29th - Fri 3rd Oct - Creative Week in school

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to make contact via the school office.

Mrs Driscoll & Mrs Turner