



# HIGHGATE

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents,

### Year 6 Class Newsletter

#### Autumn 1

We hope you had a great summer and that your child has enjoyed the first week of Year 6. It has been a delight so see them come back to school full of energy and enthusiasm! Our walls are already covered in wonderful, mountainous art. We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday at 3pm for our welcome meeting – see details at the end of this letter.

### Teaching arrangements

The Year 6 team is made up of Emma Judge, Rhoda Pennington and Michael Ingall-Clark as class teachers, with superb support provided by Katherine Nashnush, Gerry Maloney, Edith Johnson and Liz Nicholls. Emma and Rhoda both work four days a week: Michael is class teacher for 6EJ on Thursdays, and for 6RP on Fridays.

The children will also benefit from specialist teaching in the following subjects over the course of the year:

Mandarin	Rhoda Pennington
Computing	Nick Lynch
P.E.	Jimmar Adeowale
Art	Andrea Rodriguez
Cookery	Lorraine Gooday
Music	Hilla Moshenson
Drama/Performance	Kate Stilitz

### English and Topic

Our topic this half term is 'Pendarren', which is all about mountains, particularly those in the Brecon Beacons in Wales. We will look at the world's most significant mountain ranges, investigating their formation and features, and will explore how they have become a focus for leisure activities. We will also investigate the physical and human geography of the Brecon Beacons before we go there in November.

In English, we have already written some fabulous mountain poetry. Next week, we move on to writing adventure stories set in the mountains, before researching and writing a biography of Tenzing Norgay who,



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together with Edmund Hillary, was the first climber to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Finally, we will write persuasive letters to the Minister for the National Parks, asking him to give them greater protection.

## Maths

The morning starts with 10 minutes of maths fluency practice. If your child is late in arriving and misses this, they will fall behind! In core maths lessons, we will start by revisiting and reinforcing the children's understanding of place value. We will then move on to looking at negative numbers, factors, prime numbers, multiples and the four operations.

We are often asked what children can do at home to help them in class. Times Tables Rockstars is a fantastic resource to help children recall their times tables within 2-3 seconds. If your child does not know their tables and the related division facts up to 12x12 off by heart, it is essential to build in time for them at home to practise using TT Rockstars.

## Science

In science, we will be looking at classification and how and why plants, animals and micro-organisms belong to certain groups.

## Reading

Most mornings will start with independent reading time when children will be working their way through the Year 6 Reading Adventure books. We're already delighted to see how much they enjoy reading for pleasure. The expectation for all Year 6 children is to also read for at least 30 minutes a day at home so please give your child a quiet space and time to do this. We will be more than happy to make book suggestions if needed.

## PE

In PE, we will be working on fitness and football. We will have PE on Wednesday and Friday afternoons taught by Jimmar and Michael. We want children to have as much time as possible being active, so please send your child in to school on PE days wearing trainers and appropriate clothing so that they don't have to change prior to PE lessons. If you would prefer your child to get changed, then they can do so at lunchtime. Some children will notice that they need to start wearing deodorant this year, especially on PE days! Children won't be allowed to take part in P.E. lesson without the appropriate footwear.

## Medication

If your child needs an inhaler, epi-pen or any other medication then please hand this to either of us with instructions and fill in the appropriate medical form for the office, if you haven't done so already. It is your responsibility to make sure that it remains in date and hasn't run out.





## Nut allergies

We have children within the year group with significant allergies. It is extremely important to make sure that any food your child brings in to school is completely nut-free.

## Homework

Homework will be set each Friday on Google Classroom. This will typically be a maths task set on a website called MyMaths, a spelling task set on Spelling Shed and sometimes other pieces of work for topic and English. All login details for your child's SpellingShed, TT Rockstars, MyMaths, and Google Classroom accounts will be stuck on the front inside cover of their homework book.

## SATs

SATs (Standard Attainment Tests) are taken by all Year 6 children attending state schools in England and Wales at the end of May each year. Children are assessed in Maths, reading, writing, and spelling and grammar (SPAG). We will have a meeting about this in the spring term, and by the time we get there, your children will feel very well prepared and able to take the tests in their stride.

## Pendarren Residential Trip

As you know, we are off for our 5-day residential trip to Pendarren in Wales from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November. Kit lists and more information will follow in due course. If your child is anxious about the trip, or you have any other query about it, please do contact us or speak to us in the playground.

## Key dates

Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September - 3pm	Year 6 Welcome Meeting in Y6 classrooms
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September – 3.30pm	Year 6 Cake Sale
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Trip to EXCEL Centre, Royal Victoria Dock for New Scientist Schools Day



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Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	PSA Laser Event – details TBC
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October - 9.30am	Years 4-6 Harvest assembly
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> – Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term

We hope that your child has a very successful year with us in Year 6. If you would like to talk to us about anything to do with your child, large or small, please either leave a message with the office or email us. We will do our best to respond within 2 working days of receiving your email but rest assured we do check emails daily and will respond more rapidly in urgent circumstances.

Emma: [ejudge2.309@lgflmail.org](mailto:ejudge2.309@lgflmail.org)

Rhoda: [rpennington2.309@lgflmail.org](mailto:rpennington2.309@lgflmail.org)

Michael: [mingallclark5.309@lgflmail.org](mailto:mingallclark5.309@lgflmail.org)

With best wishes,

**The Year 6 Team**



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