

Summer Term

Dear children and parents of Yr. 6

Welcome back after the Easter break, we hope you had a chocolate-filled, restful holiday. Can you believe we are entering the children’s final term in primary school! It feels very surreal sat writing this newsletter, it is crazy to think the children have completed 2 terms in Year 6 already. In the spring newsletter, we said that the autumn term had been incredibly tough in education, but I think the last term top-trumped it! What a whirlwind of a term it was, so many challenges, so much sickness and so much to be proud of. Once again, the children were committed to their learning throughout, they overcame the challenges and many worked at home via zoom. Even when the day had more in store for us than we had thought possible, as a team we stuck together, were resilient and came out the other end with smiles and achievements to be proud of.



If we look back at the past 3 years in your children’s education, it has been one roller-coaster ride. Your children have faced the toughest of times and yet each one of them comes to school (and we know that for some, just getting to school on some of the days is a big achievement), they are kind, caring of one another and have the drive to work hard and achieve well for themselves. As the days, weeks and next few months tick past (and maybe fly past, rather than tick) hold in your hearts that each of your children are AWESOME, they are all ready for the next chapter in their lives and they will all leave Wickhambrook as confident, articulate and brave learners. We are very proud of all of them.

Summer Term – a busy, action-packed and fun-filled term!

SATS:

Whilst none of us wants to think too much about SATs, they are just around the corner. Here is a reminder of the timetable and on which days the children will sit which tests.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Punctuation and Grammar paper Spelling paper (SPAG)	Reading paper	Arithmetic Paper 1 Reasoning Paper 2	Reasoning Paper 3

The children have already done all of the hard work, and whilst we will do some revision in school over the next 2 weeks, we will not spend all of our day studying and cramming for tests. The 2-week Easter break was not ideally placed, the children will need some support in reminding their brain to ‘wake-up’ and be ‘school-ready’, so our timetable for the first 2 weeks back will carry on with as much ‘normal’ lessons as possible plus some revision games and quizzes. These tests are about the children showing off what they know, they are not designed to test them on information they have not been taught, the questions will cover the National Curriculum teaching from year 3 to year 6. We will administer the tests in as relaxed approach as we can, there will be breakfast on offer and lots of fresh air breaks. If you have any questions about the tests please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Grafham:

Once SATs are out of the way, we have our 3-day residential to look forward to. The rooms we have been allocated this year are a mixture of 6-bed dormitory's and 2-bed rooms. The children will know who they will be sharing with once we arrive on site. The adults on the trip are confirmed as:

- Mrs Morris
- Miss Platt
- Mrs Jolland

The confirmed activities are:

1. Stand-up paddle boarding
2. Kayaking
3. Canoeing
4. Raft Building
5. Sailing
6. Orienteering
7. Grafham Challenge

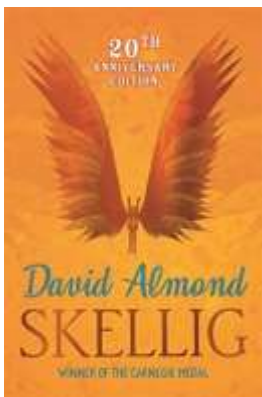
We know some of the children are feeling anxious about the activities being water-based, please reassure them that they are all safe activities, with fully qualified instructors in charge. The children will wear full-length wetsuits for every activity, plus a buoyancy aid. Should they fall in the water (or jump in the water!) they will only bob up and down. 😊

A kit list has been sent home, please can we just reiterate, do not send new or expensive clothes as some of the activities will involve them getting muddy and some children are not very good at packing for the return journey and items get lost. A bin bag is essential for all wet and dirty clothes. If you have any questions or concerns over the trip please just get in touch.

The subject coverage

English

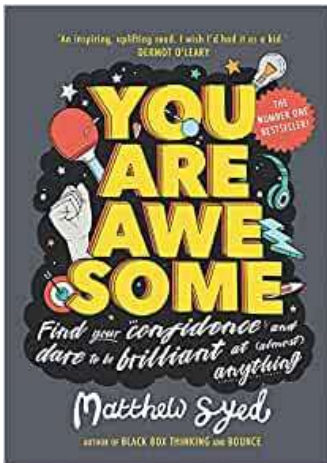
In English this term we will be reading the following 2 books as part of our daily comprehension lesson.



When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain.

Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital.

But Skellig is far more than he at first appears, and as he helps Michael breathe life into his tiny sister, Michael's world changes for ever . . .



I'm no good at sport ... I can't do maths ... I really struggle with exams ... Sound familiar?

If you believe you *can't* do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you really *could* get better at maths, or sport or exams? In fact, what if you could excel at anything you put your mind to?

You Are Awesome can help you do just that, inspiring and empowering young readers to find the confidence to realise their potential.

Matthew Syed, 2-time Olympian, uses examples of successful people from Mozart to Serena Williams to demonstrate that success really is earned rather than given, and that talent can be acquired.

With hard work and determination, practice and self-belief, and, most importantly, a Growth Mindset, there's no reason why anyone can't achieve anything.

The second book is a great book for the children to read before there secondary transition, it gives them lots of advice and tips on how to have a growth mindset and achieve their goals.

Yr6 Spring Term – Recommended Reads



Eren by Simon P Clark

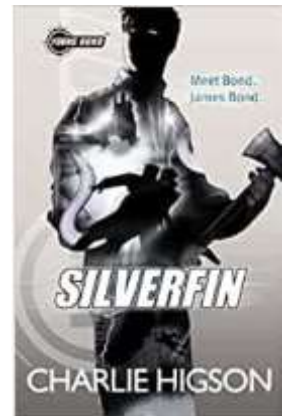
A deceptively dark story about a boy taken by his mum to live in the country after a family drama. Eren is the strange and magical creature that lives in the attic. Full of surprising and unpredictable twists that will keep you reading until the end.

Silverfin by Charlie Higson

Before the name became a legend. Before the boy became a man. Meet Bond. James Bond.

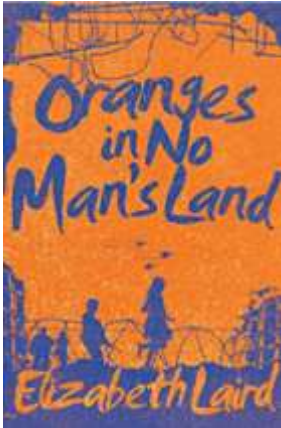
There's something in the water at Loch Silverfin. Something deadly. Something that must be kept secret...

It's James Bond's first day at Eton, and he's already met his first enemy. This is the start of an adventure that will take him from the school playing fields to the remote shores of Loch Silverfin and a terrifying discovery that threatens to unleash a new breed of warfare.



Absolutely Everything by Christopher Lloyd

"A History of Earth, Dinosaurs, Rulers, Robots and Other Things Too Numerous" – this fantastic and unique non-fiction book is highly recommended to stretch and encourage inquisitive children.

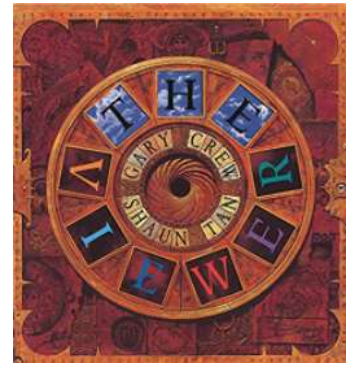


Oranges in No Man's Land by Elizabeth Laird

Ayesha is a ten-year-old living in Beirut. Her father left the family for work and her mother was killed by a missile strike. Living with her grandmother and younger siblings, she faces a huge dilemma when her grandmother falls ill. Does she stay to look after her, or does she travel into the unknown to find help?

The Viewer by Gary Crew

An imaginative picture book. Tristan finds an old picture viewing device in a rubbish dump and becomes drawn further and further into the places and worlds he sees – until finally, he disappears into one of them.



In **science** our topic for summer term 1 is electricity, these are the 3 main questions our study will focus on:

Electricity

1. What is electricity?
How does it work?
2. What are the components in a series circuit?
3. **Diagnose it** – what are the effects and consequences of changing circuit components and batteries

In Summer 2, the children will learn evolution and inheritance; they will study these 6 questions:

Evolution and Inheritance

1. How have living things changed over time?
How do we know?
2. How has life on Earth changed over time?
3. What is DNA and what does it do?
4. Are all offspring identical to their parents?
5. Darwin and Wallace – what evidence did they share to argue the case for evolution?
6. Survival of the fittest - how have animals adapted and evolved to suit their environment?

In **Geography** over spring term we learnt about physical processes: earthquakes, mountains and volcanoes. We will continue to study these topics over the first half term, developing our knowledge by making models and being more 'hands-on' with our learning.

In Summer 2 our Geography topic is linked to settlements and orienteering.

Settlements, land use and economic relationships

1. What are settlements and where are they found?
2. Do settlements have a pattern?
3. Do people, their movement and economic activity have patterns?

Orienteering

1. What is orienteering and how do I navigate a map?
2. How do I navigate a simple indoor course using controls?
3. How do I navigate a simple outdoor course using controls?
4. How do I plan and set up an orienteering course?

Extra-Curricular

In addition to continuing with our learning, the summer term is also filled with many other opportunities for the children to excel, have fun and be part of a team.

We have our Year 5 and 6 play. We are hoping to complete auditions after SATs and hand our parts before the May Half Term. We are very excited about this opportunity since the last time the children were in the middle of play rehearsals Covid hit and they were unable to perform. As this is the last opportunity for the children so shine on the stage, the Year 6 children will be given priority for the main parts, should they want them. I know for some of the children, standing on a stage to deliver lines, sing and dance is their worst nightmare, so we will encourage everyone to audition for the parts that suits them best.

Our responsibility reward trip is in the planning stages, we are hoping to take those children who have their 100 reward signatures to High Lodge, Thetford. More details of this trip will be sent out to you once we have confirmed the plans.

Deep-water swimming takes place in summer term 2, across 3 Mondays. As part of the National Curriculum, the government aim for all children, before leaving primary school, to swim 25metres. The children will have lessons at Newmarket Leisure Centre and will be encouraged to try and swim 1 length of the pool.

Transition

Many of the secondary schools have already made contact with ourselves; we have several dates in the diary to chat with the SENCO's and Heads of Year. In addition to these meetings, many of the secondary staff will visit the children at Wickhambrook and talk through what to expect in September. The children will also be invited to attend their chosen secondary school for a few days as part of the transition process. We have those dates for a couple of the schools, but not all of them yet. The schools will make direct contact with yourselves, and once we have more information we will pass this on also.

It will certainly be an action-packed summer term, with other highlights such as enrichment week, sports day, and not forgetting Year 6 leaver's assembly.

At any point you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We are always here to help.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for all your support

Mrs Morris and Mrs Ratcliffe