

Spring Term



Dear children and parents of Yr6,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and even though your plans may have changed, I hope that you had time to relax and enjoy being together. Thank you for making me feel so welcome especially as the start of this term has been far from normal with the ever-changing pandemic and the continuing uncertainty around schools and lockdown. What is certain is that we will all still be together, even if it is virtual, and I will undoubtedly have your children's best interests both academically, socially and emotionally whether they are in school or at home with you. I would like to reassure you that whether it is face-to-face classroom teaching or remote and virtual learning I endeavour to provide your children with a fantastic experience of year 6. The juggle of being in school with critical workers and providing high-quality home learning continues to be a challenge, please bear with me. If at any point you have concerns or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

What will this term look like?

Planning for this term will continue with the national curriculum objectives for year 6 and our schools long term teaching plan, so that your children's learning is not halted. There will be new learning, as well as recapping and retrieval of previous subject knowledge, but in all cases I will use videos, voice notes and PowerPoints to explain as much of each lesson as possible.

Zoom:

It is hoped that with a Zoom drop in maths and English each day, I am able to be there to provide daily support for you all. I am happy for the children to log on and do the work online with me live, or to log on and ask for help with a specific question and then log off, or even just to log on and say hi so we can all see that everyone is doing well and is able to work independently at home.

However, I do not want them to worry and to ask you for lots of your help when I am there each day to support you all. Home learning is tough on us all, as parents we do not have the knowledge at our fingertips, and our methods may be different to those taught in school. So, my hope is that the zoom meetings will alleviate some of the pressure on you as parents and give the children more ownership of their work.

Expectations:

It is really important that the children try their best to adopt the same learning behaviours at home that they would in school. I will chat to the children on my videos about the level of work required and my expectations, their level of effort and how they should present their work as if they were in the classroom. I absolutely understand how hard this is on everyone and we are all going to manage the days differently. I know there will be days when this will be more difficult than others but it is important to do what is right for your family and if you need support from me with how your child is approaching home learning then please ask, as I am more than happy to chat to them on the phone.

The subject coverage

English

As a school, we are launching a new English curriculum in 2021 for all aspects of English. We begin with looking at our writing curriculum in spring term and reading in the summer term. This new writing curriculum will focus on progression of a writing skills across the year groups. In year 6 our writing genres will be:

- Explanatory texts
- Autobiography
- Adventure Stories
- Newspaper Reports
- Stories with a moral

We start the term off with explanatory texts, and this writing task will link nicely into our geography topic on comparisons of different places.

We will continue to read every day, reading independently for pleasure, reading for information linked to subjects, listening to audio books and sharing class stories. For the purpose of home learning I am going to be sharing a new book by one of my favourite authors Onjali Q Rauf. It is called 'The Night Bus Hero,' I will record myself reading it and record it on audible for the children to listen to. When we have shared story time in class, which is most days for half an hour after lunch, the children doodle and draw, this is a great way for them to switch off and listen to the story, so I will be encouraging them to continue to do this.

The boy's an absolute menace.'

'He's a bully. A lost cause!'

'Why can't he be more like his sister?'

I've been getting into trouble for as long I can remember. Usually I don't mind 'cos some of my best, most brilliant ideas have come from sitting in detention.

But recently it feels like no one believes me about anything - even when I'm telling the truth! And it's only gotten worse since I played a prank on the old man who lives in the park.

Everyone thinks I'm just a bully. They don't believe I could be a hero.

But I'm going to prove them all wrong...



Told from the perspective of a bully, this book explores themes of bullying and homelessness, while celebrating kindness, friendship and the potential everyone has to change for the good.

Reading

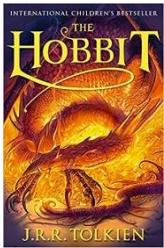
Last term the children were challenged to read from this selection of books. Please encourage your child to read as many of these as possible.

Recommended reading list:

- The Girl of Ink and Stars** – Kiran Millwood Hargrave
- Little Foxes** – Michael Morpurgo
- Nevermore The Trials of Morrigan Crow** – Jessica Townsend
- Kick** – Mitch Johnson
- To the Edge of the World** – Julia Green
- The Song from Somewhere Else** – A F Harold
- Song of the Dolphin Boy** – Elizabeth Laird
- Cogheart** – Peter Bunzl
- The Spy Master** – Jan Burchett
- First Light** – Rebecca Stead

New challenge books for the spring term include:

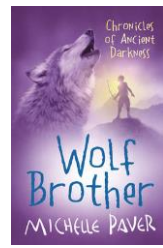
- The Hobbit** – J R R Tolkien
- A Place Called Perfect** – Helen Duggan
- Wolf Brother** – Michelle Paver



Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely travelling further than the pantry of his hobbit-hole in Bag End. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard, Gandalf, and a company of thirteen dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day, to whisk him away on a journey 'there and back again'. They have a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon...



Violet never wanted to move to Perfect. Who wants to live in a town where everyone has to wear glasses to stop them going blind? And who wants to be neat and tidy and perfectly behaved all the time? But Violet quickly discovers there's something weird going on – she keeps hearing noises in the night, her mum is acting strange and her dad has disappeared.



Thousands of years ago, a powerful and malevolent force conjured a demon: a demon so evil that it could only be contained in the body of a ferocious bear, a demon determined to destroy the world. Only one boy can stop it ...

Maths

We will continue to practice times tables up to x12 to help with children's mathematical fluency. Please encourage your child to continue daily practice on TTRS. We will also continue to have weekly arithmetic lessons where we practice strategies and apply methods learnt in a test situation. I will do a weekly recording covering some of the misconceptions from the previous week and then the children will have time to complete the weekly test. Please could you ensure the children complete each test and send me their score?

Topics covered this term will be the following:

- Fractions
- Geometry – Position and Direction
- Decimals
- Percentages
- Algebra
- Measurement – converting units

Curriculum Subjects

In **science** this term our topic for spring term 1 is Materials and their Properties. These are the 4 main questions our study will focus on:

Materials and their Properties

1. What are the different materials and their properties?
2. What are the uses of materials?
3. What are the advantages of new materials and how they were invented?
4. How do we separate solutions?
5. What are reversible and irreversible changes?

In **Geography** we will be looking at locating the worlds countries, these questions will be our focus.

Locational Study

1. Where is the Lake District and what is it like?
2. How was the Lake District formed?
3. Poland: where can you find the Tatra Mountains?
4. What are the Tatra Mountains like?
5. The Caribbean and Jamaica: What do we know? What is the terrain like?
6. What is similar and what is different between the Lake District, Tatra Mountains and the Caribbean?

In Design and Technology, we will be completing a weekly Ready, Steady, Cook challenge which you will be able to do as a family. In art, we will be exploring Still Life, drawing a range of different objects and studying different artists. Much of this art can be adapted to suit whatever materials you have available to you at home. The children will learn how to search the Internet for information and learn how to stay safe online. We will try and keep up with our music using a mix of Charanga, using your logins from the last lockdown (which I will send out again as a reminder) and Oak Academy. In PE I would like the children to set their own challenges and set each other PE lessons. Being in lockdown means we need to keep active and make the most of the fresh air with walks and bike rides. This lockdown is much chillier than when we were in lockdown last year, but this does not have to be an excuse for them to stay indoors all day. However, if the weather isn't kind then Joe Wicks is starting his daily workouts again which the children can also access as their PE time.

TTRS – I will set leaderboards and in class competitions throughout home learning, so that the children keep up their fabulously speedy recall of their multiplication tables – why don't you join them and see if you can beat them! Keeping the children active on Rockstars is crucial, 15 minutes daily would be amazing.



All home learning will be uploaded to showbie daily, if you have any issues with access or passwords then please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you need to message me, you can do so on class dojo or direct to my school email: jaulton@wickhambrookschoo.co.uk

We are in this together, so please do let me know if I can offer support to you all in other ways. Best wishes, stay safe and thank you in anticipation for all your support.

Julie Aulton
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Foxes Class Teacher