

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to Kingfishers Class!



A warm welcome to Year 6 at Bishop Sutton. We've made a great start to the term and have already begun some of our work in Maths, English, Geography and RE. I have been delighted with the lovely manners and great work ethic of all members of the class and can tell this is going to be a great year.

I will be continuing my work as a 'Primary Mastery Maths Specialist' this year and will work one day a week supporting other schools develop their Mastery Maths. This will generally be on a Friday and Mrs Blannin will cover most of the sessions.

Overview of Kingfishers' week:

Mon: Mrs Lambert (all day)

Tues: Mrs Lambert am then Miss Nash and Akeel (PE Specialist) pm

Wed: Mrs Lambert (all day)

Thurs: Mrs Lambert (all day) Swimming for certain children (see below)

Fri: Often Mrs Blannin (all day) PE

Mrs Thomas will be our teaching assistant on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and will provide further targeted support on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon.

Curriculum

We have a link on our federation website that details the curriculum for each subject and year group. Please follow the link below to see our curriculum for Terms 1 and 2:

<https://www.bishopsuttonstantondrew.co.uk/page/?title=Our+Curriculum&pid=185>

Scroll down to 'Federation Curriculum Overview v9.2' and find our Y6 overview on page 75.

There are a couple of changes. Our English texts will be *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan, *The Hidden Forest* by Jeanie Baker, and *The Unforgotten Coat* by Frank Cottrell-Bryce. We will write our own character diary entries, narratives, information texts and newspaper reports. As a school, we are starting the Maths year with some focused work on 'Time' and 'Shape' to address gaps in knowledge after two lockdowns. We will then carry on with place value, calculation and fractions. In Science, we will be exploring 'Animals Including Humans' and learning about the respiratory system and the effects of exercise, drugs and diet on our bodies.

PE

In Term 1, Kingfishers will have an hour on a Tuesday afternoon with our PE Specialist then an hour at Bishop Sutton Tennis Club on a Friday afternoon. Children are welcome to bring their own rackets or the club can provide them. In Term 2, we will continue to have an hour on a Tuesday with Akeel then Mrs Blannin or I will teach PE for an hour on Friday.

On PE days, children need to come in school PE kit suitable for the weather. Please could they wear a school sweatshirt rather than a branded or coloured 'non-uniform' version. They are welcome to bring a change of school top and deodorant (no sprays please) if they wish.

Swimming lessons have finally started again after lockdown. As a federation, we start with children in Year 6 and send eight children from each school a week until they can swim the 25m and perform basic water lifesaving skills specified in the National Curriculum. When they can, they no longer need to have school swimming lessons and we give their place to another child. Swimming lessons are on a Thursday afternoon at Midsomer Norton Swimming Pool and children are transported there by a member of staff. You will receive a letter with more detail when it is your child's turn to go.

We will also be visiting Mill-on-the-Brue Activity Centre for our yearly residential trip from 7th – 11th November! More on this nearer the time.

Homework

We experimented with lots of different versions of homework in Year 6 last year! We tried hard to get the balance right between quality time at home (and age-related expectations) and the demands of the curriculum (as well as preparing for SATs and secondary school later in the year).

In Term 1, homework will be as follows:

- Daily reading (at least 15 mins)
- A weekly reading homework task
- 3x 'quick' Maths tasks to be completed that night and discussed in class the next day.

More on this to come.

In Term 2, I will also add a 'Presentation Challenge' to be completed before the winter holiday.

Homework will start next week (Monday 12th September). There will be plenty of 'Dojo Points', praise and stickers for homework!

Lastly, a plea for children to bring water bottles every day and for shoulder-length hair (or longer) to be tied back. Thank you.

We are looking forward to a really exciting year and will support your child all the way!

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Lambert
(Class Teacher and Mathematics Curriculum Leader)