

January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to begin by wishing you and your families a happy and peaceful new year. We hope you had a lovely Christmas break. Thank you so much for all of our thoughtful gifts and cards; you are very generous.

This letter is for your information, outlining the learning taking place in Year 6 this term. So much of your child's success can be attributed to us all working together; thank you in advance for your continued support. Throughout the spring term, we will be covering the following:

Subject	Learning taking place at school	Links to previous learning to use as discussion points at home	Additional ideas to support your child at home
<p>RHE (Relationships and Health Education - previously called PSHE)</p>	<p>This half term during RHE, the children will be looking at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Dynamics • To know how to be a discerning consumer of information online & that information from search engines is ranked, selected & targeted • To talk about how families behave • To say how text & images in the media & on social media can be manipulated or invented & some strategies to evaluate the reliability of sources & identify misinformation 	<p>Previous RHE units covered throughout your child's time at Trent.</p>	<p>We really encourage talking to your child about how family dynamics can differ in different families and that there is no model for the 'perfect' family. Please also discuss with your children how to use the internet safely and how they can keep themselves safe and well online.</p>
<p>Geography: Frozen Kingdoms</p>	<p>We start the term with a geography-based project, Frozen Kingdoms. Our big question will be:</p>	<p>YR: winter; Ernest Shackleton and Antarctica</p>	<p>Discuss lessons with your child, ask them questions and encourage personal research. Please discuss online safety with your children</p>

	<p>Antarctica: everlasting winter wonderland or changing landscape?</p>	<p>Y1: Splendid Skies - how weather has affected human choices? Y2: locating North and South Poles on maps; identifying, naming and locating 5 oceans and 7 continents. Y3: Predator: animal adaptation Y4: Road Trip USA: biomes and climate zones Y4: Raging River – differences between rivers and oceans. Y5: identify and describe the similarities and differences in physical and human geography between continents.</p>	<p>Useful websites Geography: https://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/charctic-interactive-sea-ice-graph/ https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/arctic-sea-ice/ https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/nature/habitats/article/polar</p> <p>Online safety advice and support for parents and children: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/</p>
<p>History: Hola Mexico</p>	<p>After half-term our history-based topic will be Hola Mexico: Why did the ancient Maya change their way of life?</p>	<p>World History: Y4: Romans and Ancient Greek Y5: Egyptians</p>	<p>Maya Civilisation - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw</p>
<p>Art</p>	<p>In art the children will create art with an environmental message. This will take the form of a digital photograph with an environmental message overlaid.</p>	<p>Y4: Stop Motion Y5: Digital Photography</p>	<p>https://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/charctic-interactive-sea-ice-graph/ https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/arctic-sea-ice/ https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/nature/habitats/article/polar</p>

	Computing will be an introduction to spreadsheets.		<p>Online safety advice and support for parents and children:</p> <p>https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/</p>
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English	<p>Linked to our Frozen Kingdoms project, we will be exploring a range of quality texts to inspire our writing including “ICE TRAP! Shackleton’s incredible expedition” by Meredith Hopper which talks about the real life perilous adventure of explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew. We will also be reading Pig-Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman, a fiction book about a boy who gets a life-changing procedure of a heart transplant using a pig’s heart. These class books will inspire our writing across a range of genres including letters, diary entries, newspaper reports, poetry and narratives. SPaG will be taught daily to support writing and children will be learning spelling through investigations, practising both in class and at home. Throughout the spring term we will cover; using modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility; using adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility (perhaps, surely); using brackets, dashes, or commas to indicate parenthesis; using expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely; using the perfect form of verbs to mark relationships of time and cause; and using commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity in writing. Guided reading will be taught daily in whole-class and small focus group sessions. A class book will be shared at the end of each day for children to enjoy listening to and discussing.</p>	<p>Units of work studied in Year 5 including the range of writing genres covered and new SPaG features.</p>	<p>Discuss the current topic with your child, ask them what their targets are and how they can improve their writing. Please encourage the use of a dictionary and thesaurus at home, and to take extra care with presentation when completing homework activities. Children will bring home a levelled reading book and should be encouraged to read every day and be able to answer questions about what they have read, as well as give their opinions about the text. Please ask your children a range of questions about what they have read to help develop their understanding. Please sign your child’s reading journal on a daily basis so we can see that your child has been reading at home. Reading records will be checked and signed in school once a week on their reading day. Children who consistently read will receive reading awards from Mrs. Vassiliou which will be recognised on a whole school level during our weekly celebrations assembly.</p> <p>Your child’s reading book level is checked regularly to ensure continued progress. Thank you for your support with this.</p> <p>Useful websites: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f https://www.literacyshed.com/</p>
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Maths	<p>We will follow the National Curriculum objectives in preparation for SATs in May 2025, with great emphasis on problem solving skills. Throughout the spring term, we will cover:</p> <p>Fractions, beginning with dividing fractions Geometry: 2 and 3D shape, co-ordinates, translation and reflection Measuring: converting measurements, area, perimeter and volume Ratio and proportion, and line graphs, pie charts and conversions.</p> <p>During the term, Early Morning Work will consist of maths activities.</p> <p>There will also be opportunities to tackle SATs-style worded questions daily.</p>	<p>Year 6 maths builds upon, and consolidates, units of work that have been covered each year throughout your child's time at Trent, in particular formal methods of the four operations and fraction work studied in Year 5.</p>	<p>Practice the 2 - 12 times tables with your child to help them learn these facts and recall them quickly. Every week, your child will be set a piece of homework linked to the maths unit we have covered in class.</p> <p>Useful websites:</p> <p>https://nrich.maths.org/</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary</p> <p>https://uk.ixl.com/</p>
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Science	<p>Our first topic is Evolution and Inheritance: How do living things change over a time and a place? Linked with our geography topic, pupils will devise investigations to observe how conditions affect growth, identifying how plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and how adaption can lead to evolution. This will lead into our second science topic, Living things and their</p>	<p>Y2: Living things and their habitats; Animals including humans Y3: Plants; Rocks and Fossils Y4: Living things and their habitats Y5: Living things and their habitat</p>	<p>Discuss the topic at home and ask questions about what they have learnt. Encourage your child to read non-fiction books related to the topic and share new concepts.</p> <p>Useful websites: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z2pfb9q</p>
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	habitats. The big question will be 'What else is there beyond plants and animals?'. Pupils will describe how and why living things are classified into groups, including micro-organisms, plants and animals.		
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Religious Education	<p>During the autumn term, Year 6 will cover two RE units.</p> <p>During spring term 1, the Big Question Year 6 will explore is 'What does it mean to be a Buddhist?'</p> <p>In autumn term 2, the Big Question is 'How does the Christian festival of Easter offer hope?'</p>	<p>Previous Christianity units explored throughout your child's time at Trent and themes discussed in daily Collective Worship.</p>	<p>You can support your child by discussing lessons or topics and encourage additional personal research.</p>
PE	<p>Children will have two weekly PE sessions taught by Mrs Kakouris. The lessons are on Mondays and Wednesdays. In PE this term, Year 6 will be doing Gymnastics for their indoor lessons. The focus will be: <i>Can they perform a range of balances with control?</i></p> <p>Pupils will be developing pair and group balances. They will be taught how to use counter balance and counter tension to create both patch and point balances. They will work collaboratively with peers to create sequences to perform to an audience.</p> <p>Their outdoor topic will be Netball. The pupils will be working on passing the ball using a variety of ways and catching it with control and accuracy. They will learn how to stop and perform a pivot when receiving a ball with accuracy. They will learn tactics on how to dodge into a space and mark a player to prevent them from getting the ball. Finally, they will learn how to consistently shoot a ball into a net with success.</p>	<p>Previous skills covered in Year 5 and teamwork.</p>	<p>Please support your child in remembering the days that they have PE and need to wear their full Trent uniform PE kits to school. No change of clothes is needed. We ask that your child wears either black or white trainers. We recommend providing your child with a spare pair of plimsolls for them to keep in school in case they need to change their shoes during the school day due to the weather.</p>



Music	Our topic in music will be 'Film Composition'. Pupils will work in small groups to compose music to fit with a short film clip based on their class topic. They will use a range of instruments and technology, and investigate musical ideas including tonality and dynamics.		You can support your child by discussing lessons or topics and encourage additional personal research or practice.
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French	Ms Kenealy will teach a weekly French lesson during the autumn term where children will learn a range of French vocabulary and grammar through practical activities, games and role play.	Builds upon language and grammar taught in Year 6 so far.	You can support your child by discussing lessons, new vocabulary and topics, and encourage additional personal research or practice. Useful website: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty
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Homework:

Homework will be set on Google Classroom on Fridays and will usually consist of:

- *A piece of Maths
- *A piece of English
- *A piece of Creative Curriculum/Project
- *Spellings to be learnt and/or a spelling investigation

Homework is due in by Wednesday. Please encourage your child to get into the routine of 'handing in' their homework on time (by ensuring they click the 'hand in' button). If your child needs any help regarding their homework, they should come and see us before the Wednesday deadline so we can support them.

Equipment

Thank you for purchasing the school pencil case containing the equipment your child will need for this term. The items your Year 6 child will need are: a clear pencil case, a pencil, a rigid 30cm ruler, a sharpener, a glue stick, a whiteboard pen, purple pen, yellow highlighter and a whiteboard rubber. These can all be purchased from School Money. Throughout the school year, your child may need some items in their pencil case replacing. Please check with your child on a regular basis if they need any new items. We would be grateful if you could support us in this. Please provide your child with a clearly labelled water bottle every day and a healthy snack in a clearly labelled pot if appropriate.

Behaviour Policy

The Behaviour Policy has been clearly explained to all the children across the school. They understand the standard of behaviour expected of them and are responding positively. In Year 6, we will be encouraging and recognising positive behaviour by rewarding children who try incredibly hard in a variety of ways. Children who are working extremely hard will be rewarded with classroom dojos which may lead to weekly rewards on Fridays. As part of our school's message: "Inspired by Christ, we serve one another in love," we use restorative practice throughout our school in how we deal with issues in class, the playground and around the school. As your children prepare for secondary school, we are increasingly trying to equip them with the skills necessary to problem solve when playground issues occur and will continue to work with them in



expressing themselves clearly yet respectfully, and also in listening carefully and empathetically to the views of others.

Home Time

If anyone else is collecting your child, please do let us know via the school office. If we have not been told that anyone else is collecting your child, we will not let them go at the end of the day even if it is with a parent in the class. Children in Y6 who have been given written permission from their adult are allowed to go home by themselves.

Please do contact us if you have any questions or concerns. These are best addressed to us in the first instance via email to the school office as the beginnings and ends of school days are busy and focused on the children.

Many thanks,

The Y6 team: Mr Smith, Mrs. Keneally, Mrs. Carpenter and Mrs. Erdwin-John.

Important Dates:

Curriculum Information Meeting: 9:00 am - Wednesday 15th January 2025

Parent Consultations: Wednesday 19th March 2025
Thursday 27th March 2025

Y6 Class assembly and book share: 9:00 am Friday 31st January 2025

- School Trip to Unicorn Theatre: **29th January**
- School Trip to Science Museum: **6th February**

Advanced Notice – More details to follow:

SATs Week: Week beginning 12th May 2025

School Journey: Monday 19th May - Wednesday 21st May 2025