Dear Y6 Parents and Carers,

We are so proud of how all of your wonderful children settled back into school last half term and how hard they have all been working. Thank you for your patience around the parents evening calls and for your ongoing support.

Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you (please note that there have been some timetable changes):

PE

Our PE days are **Tuesday** and **Friday**. PE kits should be in school on these days but may not be used as we will limit changing in school. PE will be outside where possible and appropriate.

Outdoor learning

There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing! At The Ellis we are working hard to develop the outdoor environment and opportunities to learn outside and in Y6 we will be using our outdoor classroom and wider school environment as much as possible. This means that your child will need appropriate footwear and coats every day. Indoor pumps will be needed in school to protect our classrooms from the inevitable mud! Our outdoor learning day will most often be **Friday**.

Reading Books

Your child will have already brought home a reading book to share with you at home. Please record in their reading diary when they have read to an adult or maybe an older sibling. We ask that reading diaries are in your child’s book bag every day so that we can fill them in when they have taken part in reading in school. If reading diaries are filled then we will send home a second diary free of charge, however if it is lost then we ask that a new one is bought from the office at the cost of £1. Your child is welcome to change their book any day of the week when they have completed it but it is their responsibility to ensure books are changed regularly. Children should aim to read at home at least 3 times per week and raffle tickets will be awarded for reading. If your child is not reading regularly, then they may be asked to read during a break time at school and a letter requesting support from parents will be sent home.

Spelling books

The children are once again receiving spelling books. They will write in their new spellings on a **Friday** and bring their book home to practise. Please support your child in learning their spellings by asking them to complete the table in their spelling book and by using Spelling Shed. They will be regularly assessed in their spellings. Their spelling books need to be in school every **Friday**.

Home Learning

Thank you for supporting your children with their new CPG homework books. We have been really impressed with the way the work is being completed and returned each week. Please support your child to have their completed homework in school every **Friday**. I will email a new table showing which pages need completing each week at the start of next half term.

Each half term, children are also expected to complete a home learning project linked to our topic. I have attached a sheet of a few ideas linked to our topic but feel free to create your own ideas! We are always intrigued to see what our superstars have been up to! Once they have completed their project or projects (as some children prefer to do a few shorter projects, whilst others like to complete one long one), please send them into school so we can share their learning with the class. (Photos or PowerPoints can be emailed to Mrs Fiddes and will be passed onto class staff to share). Please encourage your child to take pride in their home learning and aim for a quality piece that may have taken a few sessions to complete.

Online learning

We are trialling our new online learning platform **Seesaw** over the half term holiday. The plan is that this will be another way for us to continue with teaching and learning in the event of a family, pod or the whole school needing to isolate. We appreciate your support in the process of developing this learning tool.

Children are encouraged to be regularly practising spellings, time tables and areas of the curriculum online. As a school we have subscribed to websites to support the children with their learning. The children have been given their individual logins for **TT Rockstars** and **Spelling Shed**. Please support your child with their learning on these platforms (ideally they should access both sites at least twice a week). If logins have been misplaced I can issue new ones.

You can find the Determined Dahls on Twitter **@Y6TheEllis**

We use Twitter to share the learning we are doing at school, celebrate achievements and give information.

**Autumn 2**

Our new topic will be **The Victorians**. Please see below to find an overview of the topic. We will be welcoming our visitors from **Real History Alive** on the **10th of November**. In order to cover the cost of the visitor we are asking for £4.50. This is payable via ParentPay. Unfortunately, if insufficient funds are raised then we may not be able to go ahead with the visitors. We would be really grateful for your support in making this event happen for Y5 and Y6.

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| **RE**  We will be exploring the question what kind of king was Jesus? | **Geography**  We will be finding out how the Empire changed over time by looking at and creating maps. | **DT** We will be developing our food technology and making food that would traditionally have been eaten in Victorian times. | **History**  We will be exploring the Victorian period. We will learn about many significant events and amazing individuals from this time. |
| **Art**  We will be exploring the art and designs of John Ruskin and LS Lowry. |
| **English**  In English, we will be using our skills to create suspense. We will be varying our sentence types and using figurative language. We will be using the ‘show not tell’ technique.  We will be learning new spellings each week and we will be further developing our handwriting skills. | **The Victorians** | | **Maths**  We will be mastering fractions. This will include: comparing and ordering fractions, placing fractions on a number line, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions.  We will then be learning about position and direction, including translations, reflections and four quadrants. |
| **PE**  PE lessons will be on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. We will be developing our teamwork and physical skills. | **Music**  We will be learning about Jazz. We will learn two tunes and develop our improvising skills. We will be playing music on glockenspiels. | **ICT**  We will improve our skills using our new online platform Seesaw. We will be using technology to research and create a fact file about a significant Victorian person, place or event. | **Science**  We will be learning about evolution and inheritance. Children will be learning about how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment. |

Home learning project suggestions

Here are some learning activities that you can do with your children at home to support their learning in school.

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| |  | | --- | | **1. Getting from A to B**  Most of the people in Victorian Britain would travel around on foot. Some people had horse drawn carriages but some rich people were lucky enough to have one of the first motor cars or to travel on steam trains. Imagine what it would be like to travel in one of these new inventions. Write a poem or letter describing what the journey was like. Draw and label a diagram of a Victorian mode of transport. Make a PowerPoint about how transport changed during the Victorian period. | |
| |  | | --- | | **2. Read all about it!**  The Victorian era was a time of great change. They invented many things we take for granted. Write a news report about one invention and the impact it would have on the lives of the Victorian people. (You could write about the steam train, camera, telephone or even coca cola which was first introduced way back in 1886!). You could design an advert for a new Victorian product. Make a fact file or PowerPoint about the inventions of the time. | |
| |  | | --- | | **3. Oh I do like to be beside the seaside!**  The Victorians loved the fresh seaside air. One of their inventions was the bathing machine. Design your own model of a Victorian bathing machine or beach hut. Imagine you have been on a Victorian Seaside holiday and write a postcard. Write a travel brochure or TripAdvisor review for a Victorian holiday resort. | |
| |  | | --- | | **4. Mmmmmm…..Tasty Treats**  Can you find out about food in the Victorian times? Design a menu for a well off Victorian house showing the food they would eat, or draw a picture and label the different dishes the poor would have eaten. Research a Victorian recipe and have a go at making a tasty treat. Compare the food that was eaten by the wealthy and the poor during the period. | |
| |  | | --- | | **5. Let me entertain you.**  Children had to make their own entertainment in the Victorian times, there was no TV! One of the ways they kept themselves busy was by putting on puppet shows in homemade shoebox style theatres. Make your own stage and puppets and entertain the class. Research other Victorian past times and share your findings. | |
| |  | | --- | | **6. The British Empire**  During the Victorian times, Britain ruled over many other countries too. Use a blank map of the world or find a map online to show the British Empire. Why not research one of the countries? You should create a presentation to show your research. | |
| |  | | --- | | **7. Those magnificent men in their flying machines.**  The Victorians were very interested in developing manned flight. Make your own flying machines and test them. Record how far they flew and grade their gracefulness out of ten. | |
| |  | | --- | | **8. Flick book.**  Design and make a flick book that shows how an area of Britain might have changed during the Victorian era. The ‘Industrial Revolution’ meant that rural communities grew and factories and chimneys soon dominated the skyline. | |

You can choose which of these activities you would like to do. You do not need to do all of them! We also know that you and your children have lots of original and creative ideas of your own. We love to see these too!

Please encourage your child to bring their learning into school to share.

If you have any questions, queries or worries then please get in touch via the phone or email.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

The Y6 Team.