Dear Y6 Parents and Carers,

We are excited to be starting a new year of learning with your children and look forward to supporting them in their next steps as they enter Year 6!

Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you-

Water bottles

Please bring a water bottle every day.

PE

Our PE days are **Thursday** and **Friday**. Our Thursday session is outdoors so please ensure that you send appropriate clothing to keep warm. We suggest that PE kits should be in school all week just in case we do any additional sessions.

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!

Reading Books

Children should aim to read at home at least **3 times per week** and raffle tickets for our weekly and half termly prize draw will be awarded for reading. Your child will have access to our class library and will be encouraged to choose interesting and challenging texts to read. Your child will be 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. Please record in their reading diary when they have read at home (this could be with a parent, a grandparent, a sibling or a friend). We ask that reading diaries are in your child’s book bag every day. 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.

Spelling books

The children are once again receiving spelling books. They will write in their new spellings on a **Tuesday** ready to be tested the following **Monday.** They will bring their book home to practise. Please support your child in learning their spellings. They can do this using Spelling Shed and by using the look, write, check method in their spelling books.

Home Learning

Each half term, children are invited 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 Year 6 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

As a school, we have the learning platform **Seesaw** for any periods when children are unable to learn in school. This may also be used for lessons in school. Children can also use it as a platform for sharing their home learning projects. Please do not use Seesaw as a platform for parent messages and instead phone or email school with any queries.

Children are encouraged to regularly practise 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 will be given their individual logins for **TT Rockstars** and **Spelling Shed**. Please support your child with their learning on these platforms. If logins are misplaced we can issue new ones.

You can find the Brilliant Badgers on Twitter @TheEllis\_Y6. We use Twitter to share the learning we are doing at school, celebrate achievements and give information.

Our first topic is **Through the Decades**. Below is an overview of the learning we will be doing this half

term.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Maths**  We will be securing and extending our place value knowledge. We will then move on the learning about addition and subtraction.  We will be developing our mathematical vocabulary and problem solving skills. | **English**  We will be reading *The Viewer* by Gary Crew and Clockwork by Philip Pullman. We will be developing our comprehension skills through answering questions about these texts.  Our writing will be focusing on narrative writing; using figurative language, varying sentence structure and maintaining the appropriate tense. | **History**  Within history we will be focusing on our Through the Deades topic and will be finding out the difference between a primary source of evidence and a secondary source of evidence. | **PSHE**  Our PSHE this term will again be following the Scheme from 1 Decision. We will be looking at Keeping & Staying Safe including Peer Pressure, Cycle and Water Safety. |
| **Music**  Our music this half term will be following the Charanga Scheme and will tie into our Through the Decades topic as we listen to music from different decades. | **Geography**  Our Geography will be based on our topic and we will be looking at significant World Wide events for example “The Space Race” and “Live Aid”. | **DT**  We will be focusing on DT next half term |
| **Computing**  We will be focusing on e-safety and using search technologies to help us with our topic work. |
| **French**  Mr Hamilton will be teaching Y6 French every Wednesday. | **Through the Decades**  Our through the decades topic will focus on how life has changed since 1948. We will look at significant events and key individuals in each decade. We will use a variety of sources to explore & evaluate the past.  Through The Decades | | **RE**  We will be looking at Muslim beliefs and practices focusing on  What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God? |
| **PE**  We will have an outdoor PE lesson each Thursday and an indoor lesson on Friday. |
| **Science**  Our science this half term is living things and their habitats. We will be classifying animal and identifying similarities and differences. | **Art**  We will be exploring the works of Andy Warhol and Banksy. |

Home learning suggestions

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

* Find out about the clothes worn through the 1950s until present day. You could focus on one era or create a fashion timeline. You can present what you find through pictures, photos, fabric creations or writing.
* Research and create a family tree showing how the jobs your family have done have changed over time.
* Draw a self-portrait in the style of a modern artist. Explore the way art has changed through the decades.
* Research and write a menu for your chosen decade. You could even try to make some food following a recipe!
* Write a list of 10 questions you would like to ask a celebrity- what would you ask Elvis, Buzz Aldrin or Margaret Thatcher?
* Interview a family member who lived through a different decade.
* Make a time capsule that would show someone in the future what living in 2021 is like.
* Investigate how technology has changed through time. You could make a PowerPoint about the development of mobile phones or create a poster showing how cars have changed.

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. We know that there will be a whole range of feelings about the return to school, from excitement to anxiety but are ready to support all our learners and to enjoy learning together again.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

The Y6 Team.