

Dear Y6 Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to welcome your children back to school after the most recent half term and we are looking forward to all the festive activities planned coming up.

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

## PE

Our PE days are Tuesday and Thursday. Thursday will be indoor PE lessons (gymnastics) and Tuesday will be outdoor (handball). The children will need their PE kits for these lessons. Please bring appropriate clothing for the Winter months as we will be going outside, even if it is cold!

## Outdoor learning

There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing! At The Ellis we love 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

Your child will bring home a reading book to enjoy and share with you at home. They can also read books or other reading materials of their choosing 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. 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, however, it is their responsibility to ensure books are changed regularly. Children should aim to read at home at least 3 times per week and reading raffle tickets will be awarded for reading.

## Spelling books

The children will be bringing home spelling books. They will write in their new spellings on a Monday and bring their book home to practise. Please support your child in learning their spellings. They will be regularly assessed in their spellings every Friday. Their spelling books need to be in school every Friday.

## Homework

The children will be set weekly learning tasks on a learning platform called SATS Companion. This web-based learning will be designed to consolidate the learning they are doing in school. They will have one English based and one Maths based assignment each week. They can also use the website to access other tasks which will support their learning. Look out for a letter with more information and log in details.

Children are encouraged to be regularly practising spellings and times tables online regularly. As a school we have subscribed to websites to support the children with their learning. Seesaw will be used in school regularly and may be used for learning at home if the need arises. The children will be given their individual logins for SATS Companion, Seesaw, TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed (they are stapled in the back of their reading diaries). Please support your child with their learning on these platforms.

You can find The Oaks on Twitter (now known as X) @TheEllis\_Y6. We use X/Twitter to share the learning we are doing at school, celebrate achievements and give information.

## Autumn 1 learning overview

### English

We will start the half term by exploring “The Promise” by Nicola Davies and the importance of sharing, love and happiness around the world. During this unit, our children will practise a variety of genres, such as: speeches, campaigns, diary entries, newsletters, narratives and much more! The Promise is an extraordinary picture book, with lots of hidden meanings/inferences. It will be sure to engage all children in their love of reading!

In our VIPERS (reading) lessons, we will develop our comprehension skills whilst continuing to read *Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl.

### Maths

We will learn about fractions. We will be covering all four operations: adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions (and mixed numbers) using a variety of methods. We will also be looking at decimals, percentages and the link between all three. Towards the end of the calendar year, we will be looking at converting units of measurement and answering multi-step problems based upon these contexts. In Y6 we also look forward to focusing on key skills/techniques in arithmetic and seeing how we progress as the year goes on!

### Science

Our Science learning will focus on Electricity this half term. We will learn about how electricity is created and how things are powered via electrical circuits. During this unit we will be conducting a variety of experiments investigating different electrical circuits, conductors and different types of energy.

### Geography

In Geography, we will be exploring ‘How does climate change affect the world?’. Throughout this unit, we will be exploring what climate change is, how it affects our world and what we can do to prevent climate change from happening. We will be looking at the effects of climate change in our local area, and in more extreme cases around the world also.

### RE

In RE, we will be exploring the question ‘Do Christmas celebrations and traditions help Christian’s understand who Jesus was and why He was born?’ Throughout this exploration, we will recap what the premise of Christmas is and what it means to people who follow the Christian faith. We will be exploring how different families celebrate Christmas and whether these traditions actually teach others about key parts of the Christian faith.

### PE

We will be focusing on gymnastics and handball this half term, whilst some of our children will continue their swimming journey. We will be completing our handball sessions outside, so please ensure that your child has suitable clothing with them as the days get colder. Our gymnastic sessions will be conducted indoors, where we will concentrate on balancing, rotating and jumping movements.

## DT

Through developing our fine motor skills, children will use a combination of textile skills such as fastenings, applique and decorative stitches, children will design, assemble and decorate a waistcoat for a chosen purpose.

## Computing

We will be learning about websites, and we will analyse and explore what makes an effective website. As well as this, the children will be designing their own websites which they could potentially make in the future. The children will explore the use of hyperlinks, images and other assistive technology involved in the creation of a website.

## French

We will be learning what is '*French sports and the Olympics*'. During these sessions, we will be building on our prior knowledge of French greetings, colours, numbers and "*My French house*", to build on our previously learnt vocabulary – forming increasingly larger sentences.

## Music

We will be analysing dynamics, pitch and texture (Fingal's cave). Children will engage in discussion about the sounds of an orchestral piece, have a selection of varied vocabulary in response to what they hear and change texture within their group improvisation. Pupils will also have the opportunity to follow the role of the conductor and performer. As well as, create a graphic score to represent sounds.

## PSHE

In PSHE, our Y6 children will acquire a comprehensive understanding about what it means to stay healthy. We will look at the impacts of smoking, drugs and alcohol. During this very exciting half term, we will also pay a visit to Crucial Crew. This school trip will focus on key areas of the PSHE curriculum and is a day we are all very much excited for!