

Dear Y6 Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to welcome your children back to school after the holidays. We hope you have had a lovely break and are ready for the challenges of the new Spring term.

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 (hockey). 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 Friday 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.

There has been an email regarding homework (how to access, where your child completes it and homework club), please see this email from Mr Milliner for more information.

Children are encouraged to regularly practise spellings and time tables online. 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.

Spring 1 learning overview

English

We will start the half term by exploring “Stonewall” by Rob Sanders, exploring the importance of love and embracing the differences of all around the world. During this unit, children will practise a variety of genres. Such as: leaflets, non-chronological reports, diary entries, newsletters, narratives and much more! Stonewall is an amazing 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 while reading *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* by Judith Kerr.

Maths

In Maths, we will start the year by looking at algebra. We will be exploring the wonderful world of 1 & 2 step equations, formulae and expressions and being able to solve calculations in these areas. Shortly after this, we will be moving onto our unit of decimals, building upon all of the fantastic knowledge that we have developed in the Autumn term in our fractions unit.

As the year progresses and with SATs looming on the horizon, we will continue to work diligently on our arithmetic practise. We currently complete an arithmetic lesson every Monday where we focus on key skills and calculations as a base of a mathematical knowledge.

Science

In Science, we will be looking at living things and their habitats. We will be exploring the classification of different animals and species, looking at how different classification systems have been created, and how this enables us to distinguish between different animals in the world.

History

In History, we will be exploring WW2. This is a highly interesting topic, where we will be looking in depth surrounding the events of WW2, and its effects on the British people. We will be looking at the causes of WW2, the impact on women throughout WW2 and the different phases of the battle of Britain. This will all be centred around looking at a variety of sources, which we will evaluate, looking at their effectiveness and reliability.

RE

In RE, we will be exploring the topic of Creation or Science – Conflicting or complimentary? This is where we will be looking at the views of religious practices, as well as Science’s approach to how the world was created. We will be exploring the common themes amongst both viewpoints, as well as contrasting views.

PE

We will be focusing on gymnastics and hockey this half term. 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.

Art

Through the study of Mayan mark-making, we will experiment with symbolic imagery. We will also learn and apply the drawing skill chiaroscuro to our artwork.

Computing

Using scratch, we will focus on evaluating effective games and coding. We will look at what makes a game effective, as well as designing our own game which we will create and share with the class.

French

We will be building upon all of the vocabulary we have learnt so far in French to look at “Visiting a French Town”. Through this topic, we will explore key vocabulary and phrases which would be necessary when visiting.

Music

Fitting with our WW2 topic in History, we will be exploring the songs of WW2 in Music. We will be looking at the songs which were created in the war, to bring peace and refuge to those who needed it at that time. As well as, the changes in music that happened as a consequence of WW2.

PSHE

In computing, we will be continuing with our work on e-safety. We will be exploring further the dangers of the online world, as well as how to behave appropriately online. This will be supplemented with work on the British Values, stealing and managing anxieties.

Kind Regards

Mr Milliner and Y6 Team