



YEAR SIX
PARENT
HANDBOOK

2019/20

Welcome to Year 6 – your child’s final year at Primary School. It is an enormously busy year and one that sees the young people take increasing responsibility for themselves, their learning and their school as they prepare themselves for secondary school.

We will discuss many of the details in the Information Evening on 5 September 2019 but we hope that this handbook will also answer some of the questions you may have about the year ahead.

Staff



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Academic Matters

- **Maths –**
 - Maths is the only subject taught in specific ability groups. Using assessment data and advice from Year 5 staff the pupils will be split into 3 groups for all their Maths lessons, taught by the two Year 6 form teachers and Miss Perrin.
 - The three groups cover the same key topics each week but the depth and pace of study will differ; homework tasks will also be different. We monitor progress carefully throughout the year and movement between the sets is possible at any time in order to optimise pupil progress.
- **Spelling –**
 - Year 6 follow the revised Paragon spelling programme (September 2019) which is aligned to the National Curriculum. All pupils complete a spelling assessment at the start of the year and this, combined with formative assessment, is used to ensure that they are in the correct group.
 - Pupils have regular spelling lessons during the week and are taught strategies to help to embed their knowledge and understanding of spelling.
 - Pupils will need to practise their spellings at home and will be set tasks to complete. They will have a short spelling test/dictation each week at school.
- **Reading –**
 - Most Year 6 pupils are confident and competent readers. We aim to discuss their book choices and listen to them read once a week. Weaker readers will be heard more often.
 - Reading is the key to success in many aspects of English and the curriculum as a whole. It is important that children continue to read for pleasure in order to build a wide comprehension of language and a broad vocabulary

to use in their own writing. Parents are strongly encouraged to continue to listen to their child read regularly; to discuss the plot, the language and any unfamiliar vocabulary.

➤ We also undertake Guided Reading in class, using the texts for comprehension, language and creative activities.

➤ To maintain continuity, it is important that all reading - completed at home and at school - is recorded in the Pupil Planner.

- **Homework –**

➤ Year 6 will be set work on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They will generally have at least two evenings before it is due to be handed in.

➤ The work is planned to take no more than 30 minutes. If a child wants to spend longer on a task that's fine but if your child has spent the allotted time on the work but not managed to complete it and wants to stop, please write a note under the work.

➤ Every other week, instead of a written homework for Maths or English, your child will be allocated a homework slot to practise either DoodleMaths or DoodleEnglish. It is recommended that that your child practises their DoodleMaths/DoodleEnglish 'little and often'; we recommend 5 -10 minute slots instead of just one sitting. Every week there will be a DoodleMaths or a DoodleEnglish focus but it would be great if your child can continue to do some practice for both, if time allows.

➤ If an evening commitment occasionally means that a pupil finds it impossible to complete a piece of work on time, the pupil should speak to the member of staff concerned to make arrangements for an extension. Ideally this conversation should happen well before the deadline; this is part of the children taking responsibility for organising their time.

➤ Homework tasks are written in the Pupil Planner.

- **Showbie –**

Showbie is the “paperless classroom” and will be used a good deal to store information, including:

- Handouts for use with classwork or homework
- Details of homework tasks – particularly when they include pictures/long instructions
- Pupil work in draft form
- Completed homework to be accessed by the teacher

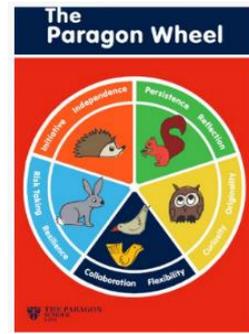
The Showbie app will be added to all the pupil iPads for use during the day. Showbie is also accessible at home either through an iPad or a desktop computer. To sign in on a desktop pupils need their username and a password; we will organise this for all pupils at school. Although we will be using iPads for some work during the autumn term, they will be used more extensively across the curriculum from January onwards.

- **11+ Familiarisation –**

- Most Year 6 pupils will sit the entrance examination for PPC in January 2020. The assessments will cover English (comprehension and creative writing), Maths and Reasoning (verbal and non-verbal). The tests will be a combination of on-screen and pen and paper assessments.
- During the autumn term we aim to familiarise the Year 6 pupils with the types of assessment they will face, exam technique and working under timed conditions. Each week we will complete a timed test and give detailed feedback (either as a group or 1:1) in order to build confidence and improve results as the term progresses.
- There are also a wide variety of 11+ practice apps available for on-screen practice. All of these have free trial exercises which represent excellent practice in the various disciplines.

Learning Habits

- Pupils are encouraged to develop the learning habits shown on The Paragon Wheel and they are discussed regularly.



Positions of Responsibility

Year 6 have the opportunity to undertake a variety of leadership roles within the school:

- Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and the Boys' and Girls' Games Captains are chosen each term. Beyond those roles, at a meeting in the first week of each term the pupils can decide what prefecting duty they would like to perform. Initially, not everyone can get their first choice and some roles are less glamorous than others; but all are equally valued.
- All year 6 pupils can also stand in House elections to be Head or Deputy Head of their House.
- Year 6 children also have the opportunity to show leadership through organising, or participating in, school events.
- Towards half term in the Autumn Term, we will discuss the more formal "prefect role" with pupils. To earn a prefect badge and enjoy the privileges it affords, pupils will be invited to submit a detailed application form. This will be assessed and, those pupils who can demonstrate they have performed their duties well and showed consistent diligence and commitment within the school community, will be presented with a prefect badge.



Stage Production

- All Year 6 will be involved in our drama production which is rehearsed and performed in the Julian Slade Theatre, Prior Park College in two weeks towards the end of the summer term. “Drama Fortnight” this academic year will be 15-25 June.
- Performance dates will be 24/25 June.
- A thorough auditions process for speaking and singing roles is held towards the end of the spring term and scripts published and distributed soon after.
- For those who would rather be involved back stage there are a number of key roles to be filled for which pupils should be prepared to prepare a brief curriculum vitae.



French Trip

- All Year 6 will be invited on our Residential Trip to the 17th Century Chateau de Chantereine in Normandy from Monday 11 to Friday 15 May 2020.
- The children will have the opportunity to try out their French in a variety of scenarios including shops and markets.
- They will be served traditional French food including frog legs and snails alongside their usual four course evening meals.
- They will be situated in a secure environment in dorm rooms and expected to take responsibility for their own hygiene throughout the week.

- We will visit towns, farms and cities during the trip to help them gain as much experience of French culture as possible.



The Bulletin

- The Bulletin is a key publication for parents, do check it every week. It contains a summary of what has been happening in school and, perhaps more importantly, information about forthcoming events.

Details about:

- Trips – letters with permission slips,
- Outdoor Learning activities - appropriate clothing and wellies
- On campus special days in school
- Assemblies
- Headmaster's Comments
- Music and Sport Notices

As a key part of their weekend homework, Year 6 pupils need to check The Bulletin for themselves so that they can follow up on the information too.



We hope you find all the enclosed details useful; if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

FB/TI 2019