

Cranford Park Primary School

YEAR SIX Autumn Term Newsletter 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We hope you have had an enjoyable holiday and would like to welcome you back to the new school year.

For year 6 children it is the beginning of an exciting and eventful year. It is a very important time and we look forward to **all** the children having a happy and successful year. Please remember that we believe communication is the key to success so if you ever have anything that you wish to discuss, or any questions that you may have, please do not hesitate to come in and discuss them with your child's class teacher.

Introducing the Year Six Team:

Class Teachers

Mrs Lester (YTL Mon/Tues) and Mrs D'Souza (YTL Wed-Fri) 6LD
Mr Palmer 6PP
Miss Chester and Mr Matthews (6CM)
Mrs Homenuk (6RH)

LSAs (Learning Support Assistants)

Mrs James
Miss Diaz
Mrs Haque
Mrs Jones

Support Teachers

Miss John (Literacy)
Mrs O'Donnell (Literacy and Numeracy)
Miss Pillai (Numeracy)
Mrs Revell

We are very keen to continue to celebrate and reward success. At the start of term the children and teachers have been working together to agree shared aims and expectations which will ensure that experiences in Year Six are positive ones.

Rewards

To encourage good behaviour and work attitudes we have various rewards in year 6.

- Raffle tickets and house points are awarded individually for excellent work in all areas of the curriculum.
- Certificates are presented to children for exceptional work, effort and attitude. We also use them as an opportunity to celebrate children's progress.
- Class points. All children are able, through working hard and behaving well, to earn points towards a treat for the class.

We very much appreciate your support in encouraging good behaviour.

Partnership

We want the very best for your child and we know that if parents and teachers can work together then your child will make the greatest possible progress. We will always keep you well informed through Open Evenings, half yearly reports, occasional letters and telephone calls (where necessary) about all aspects of your child's school life.

If you have any concerns about your child **please** do come and talk to us. Teachers will usually be available before and after school for brief meetings, but if you would like a longer meeting please do not hesitate to make an appointment.

This term, Open Evening for year 6 will be on: **Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October.**

Reading

It is extremely important for children to read as often as possible. All children benefit from daily reading and sharing books with adults and we expect all children to read at home on a daily basis (or at least 5 times per week). Reading is the key to so much success. Please continue to read with your child at least three times a week. Your enthusiasm will be 'picked up' by your child and will inspire them to read more and make greater progress. Even very able readers will benefit from sharing and discussing their books with you.

We would also like to stress that it is important the children read a wide range of texts alongside the more traditional 'reading book'. Newspapers, magazines, non-fiction texts/information leaflets will all provide stimulus to broaden children's experience of the written word and will support their written ideas as well as their reading skills.

Below are some reminders about how to support your child with their reading.

Please encourage your child to

- use their knowledge of sounds to read unfamiliar words
- use clues from the story to read unfamiliar words
- use expression – respond to punctuation and take note of exclamation and question marks

Please talk to your child about their books and useful questions could be

- Who is your favourite character and why?
- What do you think will happen next and why?
- Did you find anything funny/sad/surprising in the story?

Try to ask a range of question types about the text – some where they can easily retrieve the answer and others where they might have to look for clues/deduce the information.

We have arranged a 'helping at home' meeting, with a focus on Reading on **Wednesday 20th September at 2:45pm**, to offer ideas of ways to support your child reading at home as well as the types of questions you could be asking your children about the texts they read.

Things to look out for

- Has your child understood the main events in the story?
- Are they able to express opinions and feelings about characters and storyline?
- Do they respond to what they are reading e.g. make comments or laugh?
- Do they correct their errors, do they notice when their reading does not make sense?

The children will be taking home new reading records and we really do value and appreciate any written comments you make. Please ensure that you sign the reading records every time your child reads, either on their own or with you, so that they can receive a tick which will count towards reading certificates. In addition, in order to promote greater independence, we also encourage the children to write a short summary of what they have read each day. This may be something which describes their opinion of the text so far or may include a prediction or question that has arisen as they have read.

Topics

Topics to be studied this term will be:

Science	The Human Body, the heart and classifying living things
History	World War Two
R.E.	Buddhism and Christianity
Art and design	Lino printing (linked to World War Two) and Paul Klee

From past experience, we know the children will find these topics fascinating. Any background reading the children can do at home, using books borrowed from the library or from information found on the internet, will greatly assist them in developing their understanding of these subjects.

Homework

Homework is an important part of children's learning. Every Friday your child will be given spellings, literacy and maths. It is important that this is completed and handed in by the following Tuesday. We would greatly appreciate your support with this. If you can discuss their work with them, the children will get the greatest possible benefit from it. We would be very grateful if you could sign their homework every week and any comments would be very welcome.

Please could you encourage your child to present their work well with their best joined up handwriting, date and titles underlined and spellings checked. We would prefer work to be completed in pen (blue or black) rather than pencil and ask that no coloured pens or felt tips are used; colouring pencils only. Homework completed on a computer and printed out is also acceptable if you have one at home.

Spellings

The children will be given a core list of years 5 and 6 spellings to be learnt over this half term (attached). Each week, the teacher will select 3-5 words from this list and will test to see if they can spell them. In addition, they will be given a weekly list of words which follow a specific spelling rule or pattern and will be tested on all of these words in a weekly spelling test. Your child's class teacher will inform them of their spelling test day.

P.E.

It is very important that the children are dressed correctly for P.E. No football kits please – white t-shirts and navy blue shorts with a change of shoes: plimsolls or trainers for outdoor PE. Please could all P.E. kits and bags be clearly named. Timetable changes this year means that PE days will change half termly so please ensure that your child's PE kit is in school all week. Should you wish to wash kits, please do this at the weekend and ensure that they are returned to school on Monday.

Helping in school

Parents' help in school is always very much appreciated. This could involve using computers, artwork, technology and reading, just to name a few. If you could spare any time we would be delighted to hear from you.

Punctuality

Please remember the year 6 'soft start'. Children are allowed to come into school from 8:45am. Please note that it is very **important that all children are in their classrooms by 8:50 am in order to ensure that they are marked in the register correctly and on time.** The children have made a very good start with this and we hope to see it continue.

Uniform

Please ensure that your children come into school wearing the correct uniform. It really does make a difference when the children come to school looking smart. Shoes must be black or dark (no brightly coloured trainers).

SATs

The children will be working very hard to get ready for the SATs tests in May. The children will be sitting their mock SATs tests this week (Wednesday 6th - Friday 8th September). This is not something that the children need to worry about but completing the tests this early will enable us to gather as much information about the children as learners as we can quickly to ensure that their learning needs are met.

It is vital that the children do not miss any of these tests. The children will be informed of their results and we will discuss ways that you can continue to support preparation for these important tests during Open Evening.

We will also be arranging a SATs information evening for you on **Tuesday 7th November.** This meeting will explain these changes, will provide you with the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have regarding SATs as well as giving us the opportunity to show you examples of past questions, explain what is expected of the children and offer ideas for ways you can support your child at home.

Another important date:

Secondary transfer meeting/School Journey meeting – **Tuesday 12th September**

Finally, we look forward to seeing you and working together so that your child will have a happy, exciting and successful year.

Thank you for your support.

Year 6 Teachers