

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 6. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children over this first couple of days of term and have been so impressed by their fantastic behaviour and positive attitude. We have also been delighted with how the children have adapted to being the oldest in the school and have taken on the extra responsibility of being Year 6 buddies.

This letter outlines useful information about the term ahead and enables you to support and encourage your child. We will be able to expand on this information at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening on **Wednesday 16th September at 4.45pm**. This session will be an opportunity to meet the Year 6 teachers and to find out important information such as routines, expectations and exciting events in the year ahead.

The autumn term is a busy and important part of Year 6.

Dates for your diary

Please refer to our newsletter, weekly sent on Fridays, for important dates regarding trips, parent consultations, workshops, open afternoons and much more.

Curriculum

This list is not exhaustive, but it gives you a broad outline of the areas being addressed this term. A full curriculum overview of the year can be found on the Year 6 section of the Amherst School website.

- **English:**
 - *Goodnight Mr Tom* (Michelle Magorian)
 - *Anne Frank*
 - *Whole-School Text (TBC)*
 - *Narrative poetry*
 - *The Piano* (Aidan Gibbons)
- **Maths:** place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division
- **Science:** animals including humans, light
- **History:** World War Two
- **Computing:** creating media using Tinkercad and Google Sites
- **Art & DT:** Henry Moore & Alberto Giacometti, healthy vegetable soups, WWII shelter models

Homework

	Handed out	Due in
MA book	Wednesday	Monday
English and spelling	Friday	Wednesday
Planners	Friday	Friday

Maths: Children should complete **one page** of MA each week. This should take approximately 20-30 minutes. Children should complete corrections from previous weeks before moving on to the next test. If they are unsure how to correct their work, they should ask for help in school. MA homework should be completed in **pencil**.

Children should also continue to practise their **times tables** and corresponding division facts at home (up to 12 x 12). All children have a login for Times Tables Rock Stars using our school subscription.

English: Children will receive an English task which should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. This task will often provide opportunities to practise grammar or punctuation skills taught in class whilst applying their weekly spellings. When deemed appropriate and beneficial, slightly longer or more open tasks may be set. English homework should be completed in **rollerball, handwriting pen or ink pen**. If this is not possible, then a pencil should be used.

Spelling: Children will receive a list of 10 spellings (plus challenge words) each week and should spend at least 20 minutes practising them in preparation for the weekly spelling test on the following **Wednesday**. The spellings will be drawn from spelling rules learnt in lessons, the Year 5/6 statutory word list from the National Curriculum and topic-based words.

Reading: It is vital that the children are encouraged to read as extensively as possible. We recommend that your child reads for at least 30 minutes each night. Your child must record their daily reading in their school planner and should bring their planner in **daily**. Please sign your child's planner each week before it is checked at school on a **Friday** to indicate that you have listened to them read. Recommended reading lists are available on the school website.

Additional Information

We are organising a **WWII day** in school on Monday 23rd November. We would like the children to come to school dressed as if they were living during World War II, e.g. as an evacuee, soldier, pilot, nurse, ARP warden or Land Girl. Costumes do not have to be very complicated (or expensive) but we would like every child to dress up in line with this World War II theme. Further information to follow.

As part of our WWII topic, we will also be visiting an Anderson shelter in our local area. A specific date will be confirmed soon but, in the meantime, please provide consent for local visits on School Gateway.

After half term, the children will design and create their own WWII model shelters in school. Amherst will purchase most of the materials needed to build them. However, we will encourage the children to collect their own resources as well, if they wish – please do not spend lots of money on this! The best materials are spare pieces of cardboard, coloured decorations and anything you have spare at home.

PE & Games

In Term 1, Year 6 **Games** lessons will be on **Fridays** and **Indoor PE** lessons will be on **Tuesdays**. Please note that this will change during the year and that the classes will rotate sports in Games over Terms 1-3.

Term 1 Equipment:

Chestnut – Hockey (Trainers, shin pads, long socks, gum shield and normal PE kit)

Hawthorn – Football (Trainers, shin pads and normal PE kit)

Sycamore – Tag Rugby (Trainers and normal PE kit)

Indoor PE – Dance (normal PE kit)

Normal PE kit: Navy t-shirt, navy shorts/skort/tracksuit bottoms, sweatshirt/Team Amherst hoodie and trainers.

As the ground is currently so dry, we ask that the children wear trainers rather than football boots for football and tag rugby. We will inform you when football boots are required.

We intend to teach PE wherever possible, regardless of the weather, so please ensure your child has appropriate clothing as the weather gets colder. Earrings will need to be removed or taped over for PE.

We hope that the information provided will enable you to work alongside us in providing the best possible support and encouragement for your child. The Year 6 staff are very much looking forward to a busy, productive and enjoyable year with your children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Adams

Miss Nicholl

Mrs Fox

Mrs Mais