

Newcomen Primary School

Year 6 Curriculum Overview

Introduction

Welcome to Year 6! We place great importance on being able to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is primarily Literary based. As a school, we believe a text-rich environment ensures that all learning is relevant and stimulating across the whole curriculum. It really does allow the children to fully immerse themselves in what they are doing. As Year 6 is such an important year, it is essential that your child is organised and becomes increasingly independent in preparation for Secondary School. The Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) take place week beginning the 9th of May 2022. Therefore, additional whole year group booster sessions will be provided during the Easter break alongside weekly group sessions during the Spring Term. A parent e-mail will be sent out with the timetable for SATs week nearer the event. Remember that we are here to help so if you have any questions at all about anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

English

In the Autumn term, we will be studying the much-acclaimed Warhorse by Michael Morpurgo and our text analysis and writing will be based on this. Later on in the year, the children will be sharing the incredible tale of our times *The Lightless Sky: My Journey to Safety* as a child refugee by Gulwali Passarlay. We will also be reading and reciting a collection of poems throughout the year to build our children's strong connection to language. Your child has been given an English Knowledge Book into which we add specific language-based terms and new vocabulary to be learnt. At Newcomen, we place great emphasis on enabling our children to learn high level vocabulary (HLV) and our children pride themselves on their extended use of vocabulary. In addition to the use of HLV in writing, we will also be focusing on a wide variety of grammatical constructions which the children learn using our Writing Checklist and our Word Family List. Spelling lessons continue to be held on Friday with the children being tested the following week. In Y6, the children will receive 20 spellings; these always follow a particular pattern which is clearly explained to the children. It is really important that the children understand the rule of the spelling list so they can then apply the rule to other words. In reading comprehension, we will be focusing on straightforward retrieval questions, answers which require inference and children to justify their answers from the text.

Reading

Reading is a vital skill in all areas of primary education and lies at the heart of our curriculum. We recognise it is essential that your child not only reads fluently and with confidence, but also develops robust language comprehension skills that allow them to make sense of words, sentences and concepts they hear or read. Reading is a crucial skill that will support your child in all areas of the curriculum where they encounter text. In school, emphasis is placed on reading aloud with clarity and intonation. Children, who experience regular reading at home, benefit from improved confidence and reading skills. Therefore, your support with reading at home is valued and appreciated. Please allow time for your child to read to you and discuss their understanding of the text. The government recommends daily reading with your child stating that "parents who engage their children in books prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers." Parents have the power to transform the attitudes of their children towards reading. If a child is unable to read, they will struggle to access all aspects of the curriculum.

Maths

At Newcomen Primary School, we believe that a high-quality mathematics education provides a foundation for understanding the world. The principal focus of mathematics teaching in upper key stage 2 is to ensure that pupils extend their understanding of the number system and place value to include larger integers. This should develop the connections that pupils make between multiplication and division with fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio. Although the mathematics curriculum is split into four major strands – number, measurement, geometry and statistics, a greater emphasis will be placed on arithmetic with the four operations systematically built upon as the year progresses. All children will need to know and practise their maths facts and vocabulary which are given to them on a daily basis (it is taken for granted at the start of Year 6 your child knows their multiplication tables). It is crucial the children know their maths facts and spend time at home learning them on a daily basis as they will provide the foundation for any using and applying word problems later on in the year. Emphasis within the school day is also placed on mental arithmetic. To develop this, at the start of the day, children complete a series of mental arithmetic questions to help them improve their understanding of mathematical concepts. Due to this fact, it is essential that your child arrives at school on time to complete their daily mental maths task.

The Wider Curriculum

In **History** the children will be learning about the Windrush Generation Study, Chronological Study Beyond 1066 – Monarchs – Conflict and Peace and also The Battle of Britain.

In **Geography** the children will know Countries of the World and their Capital Cities, Longitude and Latitude alongside Mapping skills, Mountains, Volcanoes and Natural Disasters and draw a comparison of UK / Europe/ North and South America. We would very much appreciate it if you could assist your child with learning these key facts at home to increase their confidence and further their knowledge and understanding.

Art and Design Technology will be linked to our geographical and historical studies. The children will have the opportunity to make various Caribbean delicacies, create a colourful mola and make a 3 dimensional mountainous diorama. We will also be designing and making products for our Enterprise Scheme to be showcased at the Summer Fair on our Family Day 2022.

In **Science**, we believe that a high-quality science education provides the foundations for understanding the world. The children will be learning about the following exciting strands of Science this year: Light and Electricity, Evolution and Inheritance, Animals including Humans, Living Things and their Habitats. As well as learning about the key concepts of these areas, the children will also have the opportunity to work scientifically by conducting fascinating experiments.

In **Religious Education (RE)** the children will be examining some very pertinent religious questions such as: Why is Buddha important for Buddhists? How do Buddhist beliefs affect the way Buddhists lead their lives? What do the gospels tell us about the birth of Jesus? Why are Good Friday and Easter Day the most important days for Christians? What do religions believe about life after death?

Computing is an essential part of the curriculum as it prepares the children for the digital age in which live. Over the course of the year, the children will be learning the skills of Coding, 3D Modelling and Concept Mapping. They will also be working on Online Spreadsheets, Databases and Game Creators. Online safety permeates all aspects of the computing curriculum.

Physical Education (PE) will begin by focusing on health and fitness, stamina and agility. The children will go on to study modules of dance, strike and field activities, invasion games and gymnastics throughout the year. Additionally, Year 6 pupils will take part in swimming lessons on Wednesdays in the Autumn Term.

In **French, the** children will develop their love of learning another language predominately through fun speaking and listening activities including songs, role play and the sharing of appropriate texts.

In **Music**, the children will listen to, review and evaluate various genres of music learning how to identify pulse, rhythm, dynamics and tempo. Moreover, they will learn to sing and to use their voices to create and compose music on their own and with others. Children will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (a glockenspiel) and perform songs within a class setting.

Your children's well-being is of paramount importance. As such, our weekly **Relationship Education (RE)** sessions will be designed to support the children with this. We are very much looking forward to using the curriculum to offer our children guidance, support and reassurance. The key themes we will be exploring are: Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me.

Important Information

Attendance - 'Attend and Achieve' is a motto we are very proud of at school. If your child is not here, then they cannot learn. Please work with us to ensure that your child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

PE - Please ensure that your child has suitably labelled clothing which remains in school throughout the week. Class 13 has PE on a Monday and Class 14 on Friday. The only jewellery acceptable is a watch and stud earrings (which are removed for PE) or taped up. Asthmatic children need a named inhaler in school at all times. During the Autumn term, the Y6 children will be attending Redcar Leisure Centre on a Wednesday afternoon for a 5 week block for each class. This will count as their P.E. day.

Spellings – Y6 have spelling tests on a Friday. Please ask your child for their spelling log and ensure that you review the spelling rule with your child when they are learning their spellings at home. Thank you so much for your support with this.

Equipment – Children are expected to bring their Maths Knowledge, Spelling Logs, English Knowledge Book and Reading Books every day.