



**Welcome to
Year 6**

Staff in Year 6

- ▶ All year six classes are located in the new part of the Key Stage 2 building, near the small side gate
- ▶ Elm class
 - ▶ Teacher: Miss Leeder
 - ▶ LSAs: Mrs Gray
- ▶ Elder class
 - ▶ Teachers: Miss Channing & Mr Smith
 - ▶ LSA: Miss McDougall
- ▶ Oak class
 - ▶ Teachers: Mr Head
 - ▶ LSAs: Miss Quinn
- ▶ The Phase Leader for Year 6 is Mrs Eley
 - ▶ Mrs Eley can be found in Maple class

Attendance and Punctuality

- ▶ Children will not achieve their full potential without good attendance or punctuality.
- ▶ If your child's attendance is 90% or less, this is the equivalent of missing a day each fortnight.
- ▶ If your child's attendance is 80% or less, this is the equivalent of missing a day each week.
- ▶ Good attendance is considered to be 96% or above.
- ▶ We give out weekly and termly attendance rewards and the children love to get these - please help your child to not miss out!

- ▶ Many of our interventions for children who need extra support take place at the start of the day - your child may miss out if they need extra support and are late!
- ▶ Some children in Reception last year were half an hour late almost every day - this meant that they missed most of their phonics sessions which help them learn to read.
- ▶ If a child has difficulty reading, it can mean that they fall behind other children in the class and find it more difficult to catch up.
- ▶ If your child is consistently late, this can be classed as an unauthorised absence.
- ▶ Arriving into class late is often stressful and embarrassing for children - please help them get in school, on time, every day!
- ▶ Please ensure you and your child are at school at 8:35 each day, ready for the classroom doors to open at 8:40.

School Day Times

- ▶ Start of the day: 8:40
 - ▶ Doors close at 8:55 - if your child arrives after this time, please go through the office. Children arriving after 9:00 are registered as late.
- ▶ Break time: 10:30
- ▶ Lunch time: 12:00-1:00
- ▶ End of the day: 3:20

Assessment

- ▶ We assess our children throughout the year.
- ▶ We use many different methods of assessment, including verbal discussions with children, examining the work in their books, and more formal tests.
- ▶ We use our assessments to plan what we will teach next and to see if our children have any gaps in their learning.
- ▶ We will provide you with assessment information at consultation evenings throughout the year, where we will discuss the progress your child is making and if they are working at the appropriate levels for their age.
- ▶ If you wish to discuss your child's academic progress at any point in the year, please talk to your child's teacher.

What are SATs?

- ▶ In May, the children will sit a series of tests that the government uses to assess how much they have learned during their time at primary school
- ▶ These are known as SATs
- ▶ Children will take tests in 3 subjects: spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG); reading; and maths
- ▶ Monday 12th May: SPaG short answer paper and spelling test
- ▶ Tuesday 13th May: reading test
- ▶ Wednesday 14th May: arithmetic test and maths reasoning test
- ▶ Thursday 15th May: maths reasoning test
- ▶ The tests are not marked by us, they are sent away to be marked by other people

Writing assessment

- ▶ In June, we have to assess the children's writing and report this to the government
- ▶ The children's levels for this are decided by us, but our assessment decisions are moderated by other professionals

SPaG

- ▶ The SPaG test has two parts
- ▶ The short answer paper is where children have to tick boxes, edit sentences, change tenses, and lots of other activities
- ▶ The short answer paper is 45 minutes long and the children have 50 questions to complete
- ▶ They are tested on knowledge from the whole of KS2 (years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
- ▶ There is also a spelling test where the children have some sentences with missing words which are read aloud
- ▶ The children then have to write in the missing word and then spell it correctly
- ▶ As these tests are sent away to be marked, it is important that the children have clear, legible handwriting
- ▶ There are 50 marks available on the short answer paper, and 20 on the spelling (70 in total)
- ▶ The 2024 'pass' mark was 35, 53 was needed for greater depth

How can you help with SPaG?

- ▶ We give the children grammar questions as their early morning work almost every day - we open our doors at 8:40, so if your child is here at that time, they will get more time to practice every day
- ▶ The BBC Bitesize pages are also excellent at explaining grammar rules if you would like to do your own research (or get your child to do it)

Reading

- ▶ The children will sit one reading test which is an hour long
- ▶ They have a reading booklet with three texts in, and an answer booklet with questions about the texts in
- ▶ The reading test is out of 50 marks, and there are usually about 40 questions
- ▶ The 2024 'pass' mark was 27, 40 was needed for greater depth
- ▶ The reading test will look at the children's retrieval, inference and prediction skills, as well as testing their understanding of how authors use different words to enhance meaning

How can you help with reading?

- ▶ There is a LOT of text to read in the test, and some of the questions are long as well
- ▶ If your child reads regularly to an adult, they will improve their reading speed and stamina and are more likely to succeed in the test
- ▶ It can also be difficult for some children to concentrate for the time required, encouraging them to read for longer periods of time will improve their reading stamina
- ▶ Take an interest in your child's reading and talk to them about their books
- ▶ Encourage them to read a range of text types - they will have a mix of fiction and non-fiction in the test
- ▶ One of the texts in the text may even be poetry
- ▶ The children (and adults) will not see the tests before the day, so it is really important that children are confident readers of all text types

Maths

- ▶ The children will sit three maths tests - two on the Wednesday and one on the Thursday
- ▶ Wednesday - arithmetic (30 mins) and reasoning (40 mins)
- ▶ Thursday - reasoning (40 mins)
- ▶ The arithmetic paper will be 'simple', out of context problems
- ▶ The reasoning papers have longer, more complicated problems that often describe 'real-life' scenarios
- ▶ The children will be tested on maths knowledge from the whole of KS2
- ▶ There are 120 marks available
- ▶ In 2023, 54 was the 'pass' mark, 93 was needed for greater depth

How can you help with maths?

- ▶ We will set maths homework every Friday - if you do not understand any of it, please ask us!
- ▶ BBC Bitesize is also good for year 6 maths
- ▶ We give the children maths questions as their early morning work almost every day - we open our doors at 8:40, so if your child is here at that time, they will get more time to practice every day

Writing

- ▶ We will assess the children's writing throughout the year, and send our final assessment to the government in June
- ▶ We have given you the objectives and some examples of writing so you can see what is expected
- ▶ The children do not need to meet every objective in every piece of writing

How can you help with writing

- ▶ Encourage your children to practice and improve their spellings so they can meet the year 6 standard
- ▶ Encourage your children to read a wide range of books and use their ideas in their own writing
- ▶ During half terms and holidays, encourage your children to write at home so you can see what they are capable of ('thank you' letters for birthday and Christmas presents always go down well)
- ▶ Give your children to opportunity to write about what ever they want - game reviews, film reviews, diaries, stories - the possibilities are endless
- ▶ Encourage them to edit and experiment with their writing at home
- ▶ By writing more at home, they will improve their hand strength and writing stamina

How can you help with year 6 in general?

- ▶ Encourage your child to organise themselves - make sure they pack their bag each day (or evening before) and remind them about their homework
- ▶ Encourage them to complete their homework the day they get it - this will give them more time to ask for help if they need it and help prepare them for next year
- ▶ Ensure that your child has good attendance and punctuality - EMW is good, low-pressure practice for the tests in May
- ▶ Remind your child about the reward trips for good attendance, behaviour and completing homework - we will have these every half term
- ▶ If your child is offered tutoring through the school, please allow them to attend
 - ▶ Our tutoring takes place in small groups where we tailor the work to the children's needs
- ▶ Talk to us if you have any questions or concerns - we would rather deal with problems when they arise, before they become bigger
- ▶ You can speak to us at the door before or after school, or make an appointment through the office if you would like a more formal chat
- ▶ If you want your child to do extra practice for the tests, there are books and papers widely available (Collins, Letts and CGP are good)
- ▶ We recommend focussing on reading and maths if you do extra practice
- ▶ If you see something in a practice paper or book and would like guidance, please ask us!

What happens if a child misses one of the tests?

- ▶ The handling of the tests is strictly controlled - these rules are given to us by the government
- ▶ If a child misses one or more of the tests, we have to keep them separate from the other children until they have sat the test
- ▶ Example scenario
 - ▶ It is test week and Zeke is ill on the Monday so he misses the SPaG test. He feels better on Tuesday
 - ▶ On Tuesday, he comes in through the school office instead of going into his class
 - ▶ He will complete the SPaG and reading tests separately from the other children before rejoining his class
- ▶ We want to start the tests promptly each morning, so please make sure that your child is in school on time on test days
- ▶ If children miss more than one of the tests, it can be more stressful for them as they have to be kept separate from their friends and they may have to take multiple tests in one day

Curriculum

- ▶ We have lots of exciting topics this year!
- ▶ To find out more, please visit the 'Curriculum' section of the school website - you can find the link below.
- ▶ <http://www.whitmore-pri.essex.sch.uk/Curriculum.php>

Uniform Expectations

- ▶ Children are expected to wear school uniform everyday.
- ▶ Our uniform is currently:
 - ▶ **Black** jumper or cardigan - these can be plain or with the school logo on. No hoodies please
 - ▶ **White** shirt or polo shirt - polo shirts with the school logo on are available if you wish. These also need to be tucked in so that children look smart.
 - ▶ **Black** shoes - no trainers or shoes with other colours on please. Please do not let your child wear boots or heels.
 - ▶ **Black** trousers, shorts or skirts.
 - ▶ **Black** pinafore-style dresses or **green** checked summer dresses.
- ▶ School ties are available to purchase from the office if your child wishes to wear one.
- ▶ School fleeces for outside wear are also available to buy if you wish.
- ▶ Plain uniform from supermarkets is acceptable - we do **not** insist on school logos on every item of clothing!

Uniform Expectations

- ▶ Hoodies of any colour are acceptable to be worn in the playground for warmth, but not as a substitute for a jumper in the classroom.
- ▶ Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather - if it is cold or wet, please ensure they have a suitable coat.
- ▶ **Please ensure that all of your child's possessions have their name in them so they can be returned to your child if they are ever lost.**
- ▶ Jewellery such as necklaces, bracelets or rings are not part of school uniform - please talk to your child's teacher if your child wears any of these for religious reasons.
- ▶ Your child may wear a watch if they wish.
- ▶ If your child wears earrings, please ensure that these are small, plain studs only - **no hoops or dangling earrings please.**
- ▶ **If you are unable to provide your child with suitable uniform, please talk to your child's teacher or the school office in confidence to discuss how the school can support you.**

PE Days

- ▶ **Our PE days are Thursdays and Fridays**
- ▶ **Classes will have different days that will change throughout the term - we will let you know via the school's text message system**

Children can keep their PE kits at home

On PE days, children can come to school in their PE kits

They do not need to bring their uniform to get changed into - they can stay in their PE kits all day

If you are having difficulty providing a PE kit for your child, please talk to your child's teacher in confidence so we can discuss how the school can support you.

PE kit :

- **Black** shorts and white t-shirt
- Plimsolls or trainers
- **Black** or **grey** jogging bottoms or a tracksuit for outdoor lessons in colder weather
- Please be aware that long hair must be tied back for PE. If your child has long hair, please ensure that they are able to tie it back.
- **Earrings must not be worn for PE.** If your child wears earrings, please ensure that they are removed on PE days or make sure that your child is able to remove their earrings independently. Staff are **not** allowed to help children remove their earrings.
- Please ensure that all items of PE kit have your child's name in them.



What to bring to school every day

- ▶ Book bag or small rucksack - no massive bags please, as our cloakrooms have limited space.
- ▶ Water bottle with your child's name on.
 - ▶ We have drinking water in every classroom so bottles can be refilled.
 - ▶ Please only put water in your child's bottle - no squash, juice or flavoured waters please.
- ▶ Lunchbox with your child's name on if they have a packed lunch.
- ▶ Reading book and reading record - this will be sent home at the end of every day and brought back on the next school day.

Swimming

- ▶ We will go swimming on Monday morning every week in the first autumn half term.
- ▶ In order to maximise our time at the pool, children will need to arrive at school at **8:30** on swimming days.
- ▶ There is no charge and swimming hats are provided.
- ▶ Boys will need to wear swimming shorts that do not go below the knee.
- ▶ Girls will need to wear one-piece swimsuits - no bikinis please.
- ▶ All children need to bring towels and a suitable bag for their swimming costumes.
- ▶ All earrings will need to be removed and hair tied back.
- ▶ Unlike other PE kit, swimming kit only needs to be brought into school on swimming days and will be sent home at the end of the day.
- ▶ Children will be assessed and put into confidence and competence-linked groups to help them develop their swimming ability.
- ▶ The National Curriculum states that all children should be able to swim 25 metres unaided by the end of KS2.
- ▶ Swimming is a **compulsory** part of the National Curriculum - please talk to your child's teacher if you have any queries or concerns about this.

Free School Meals

- ▶ Children in KS2 have to pay for a school meal.
 - ▶ <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Pupil-Parent-Support/Pages/Free-school-meals.aspx>
- ▶ Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:
 - ▶ Income support; Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income of below £16,190; Pension Guarantee Credit; Employment and Support allowance, income related; Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, Working Tax Credit run-on, Universal Credit, with an income of £7,400 or less after tax and excluding benefits.
- ▶ You can find more information at the website above.
- ▶ Please apply, even if you do not intend to use the meals, as the school receives extra funding for every eligible child.
- ▶ **If you think you are entitled for free school meals and would like help applying, please contact the school office in confidence.**



Snacks at break

- ▶ Children will be provided with a free piece of fruit (or sometimes a vegetable such as a carrot) each day.
- ▶ You can send your child in with a piece of fruit or a vegetable from home if you wish.
- ▶ The children are allowed to drink fruit juice at playtimes.
- ▶ Dried fruit, such as raisins, are also acceptable.
- ▶ At break times, children are **not** allowed to have crisps, sweets, chocolate, biscuits, breakfast bars, breakfast biscuits, yogurts, meat products or other savoury snacks (save these for lunchtimes, please).



Behaviour



Rewards



+1 point
Good Behaviour at
Lunchtime



+1 point
Good learning
behaviour

- ▶ In school, we use a system called Carrot Rewards to monitor and track the children's behaviour.
- ▶ All children have an assigned character and can earn a 'carrot' after each session.
- ▶ Children will receive a carrot for displaying the expected behaviours: listening, working hard, being kind, following the rules, etc.
- ▶ Children will receive warnings before they cannot earn a carrot in class.
- ▶ Children can earn a maximum of six carrots per day - five in the classroom and one for lunchtime behaviour.
- ▶ On Fridays, at the end of the day, the children have 'Carrot Time', where they can choose a fun activity.
- ▶ Children need to have twenty-five 'carrots' to take part in Friday's (absence will be taken into account to not punish children for illness here).
- ▶ Children can only earn carrot points on days or for sessions that they are at school.

Behaviour Sanctions

- ▶ The vast majority of our children are exceptionally well behaved and will never have to receive a sanction.
- ▶ Lunchtime and break sanctions:
 - ▶ Warning or stand with an midday assistant for a period of time - carrots can still be earned
 - ▶ No carrot earned for lunchtime
 - ▶ Sent to reflection room - no carrot point earned and parents informed
 - ▶ 3 reflection room visits in a half term - internal exclusion for an afternoon
 - ▶ Continued misbehaviour during breaks and lunches may result in the child not being allowed outside with other children during these times
- ▶ Class sanctions:
 - ▶ Warnings or five minute 'time outs' - carrots can still be earned for the session if behaviour improves
 - ▶ Not earning carrot for that session.
 - ▶ Class move - child is sent to another class for the remainder of the session - carrot not earned
 - ▶ Internal exclusions - child is in a different class. The length of this depends of the severity of the misbehaviour. No carrots are earned when a child is on internal exclusion.
 - ▶ Fixed term external exclusion - the child has to be home-schooled for a fixed period of time depending on the context of the behaviour.

Carrot Celebration

- ▶ At the end of each half term, we will have Carrot Celebration to reward the children for their excellent behaviour, hard work **and attendance**.
- ▶ The children will have a choice of fun activities to thank them for their hard work.
- ▶ There may be times where we have to limit the size of activities because of resources, room sizes, etc.
- ▶ At times like this, children who have earned the most carrots over the half term will receive first choice of activities. This means that the children with the best attendance and punctuality will get first choice of the activities.
- ▶ In order to join in with Carrot Celebration, children need to have an average of 5 carrots per day during the half term, per day they are at school.

Communication

- ▶ If you have any worries, or anything you would like to ask or share about your child, please make your class teacher the first person you speak to.
- ▶ We are always happy to talk to you about anything at all.
- ▶ Please note that mornings are a very busy time and we do need to supervise children coming in, so please be aware we will be unable to have in-depth conversations with you unless it is about who is picking your child up or vital information that cannot wait.
- ▶ If you wish to have a longer, informal chat with us about any issues or questions you have, we are always happy to talk with you after school. Please be aware that we have staff meetings on Tuesdays after school.
- ▶ If you would like a more formal appointment, please contact your child's teacher or the school office to arrange a time for a face-to-face meeting or a phone call.
- ▶ If you have an issue that has not been resolved by talking to your child's teacher, your next step is to talk to the phase leader.
- ▶ The phase leader for Year 6 is Mrs Eley.