



Year 6

Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School, Withycombe Village Road, Exmouth, EX8 3BA. Tel: 01395 263397

kestrel@wrpschool.org kingfisher@wrpschool.org osprey@wrpschool.org

Year Six Newsletter – Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to you and, of course, the children to Year 6! For some of our pupils, the return to school after the holidays will bring great excitement at the prospect of new learning and seeing friends again, others may be feeling overwhelmed at the prospect of returning and anxious about changes to the day and new routines – some may experience all of the feelings within one day. All of these emotions are completely understandable and we will be working incredibly closely with the pupils and their families to make Year Six an enjoyable, positive experience.

A Quick Introduction to the Year 6 Teaching Team

Mrs Rose and Mrs Wheeler will teach Kingfisher Class, Mr Overton and Mrs Wilson will teach Kestrel Class and Miss Huxtable will teach Osprey Class. Mrs Burrows, Mrs Lang, Mrs Satchell, Mrs Scholes, Mr Stranks and Mrs Bond will also support the children in their learning.

Teaching and Learning

Throughout the school year we will encourage the children to develop their interpersonal skills and their attitude to learning. We aim to create opportunities for children to question ideas and concepts, become effective team workers, manage themselves and become motivated, resilient and independent learners. Don't be surprised if your child returns home full of questions to discuss over the dinner table after some lively class debate! For some lessons, children will be taught by their class teacher, for others they will be taught by a specialist in that subject and for English and Maths, they will be taught in sets, designed to support, challenge and extend pupils at a level which best suits them. We have found that this approach helps to ease the transition to secondary school life, where pupils are frequently taught by multiple teachers in one day.

Routines / Expectations

For children in Year Six, the school day begins at 8:40am and ends at 3:10pm. If your child is not being collected by an adult (e.g. they are walking home with a friend or by themselves), please let us know. Children are expected to come to school wearing a smart school uniform following our uniform policy (please note that this stipulates limits with jewellery, no nail varnish, hair colour and cut and that long hair should be tied back).

On **Monday** and **Friday**, your child will need to come to school wearing their P.E. kit. Please could you ensure that your child wears the full and correct school P.E. kit (including a good pair of trainers).

Year Six Residential (5th – 7th October)

We are all very excited about the upcoming residential to Barton Hall (Monday 5th – Wednesday 7th October) where the children will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of adventurous activities, which may include Vertical Challenge, Climbing, Canoeing, PGL Games and Camp Fire. If you have any queries, worries or questions about our residential visit, please get in touch. Please complete and return the attached SOE3 form for the residential as soon as possible. Further information and kit



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lists will be distributed soon. If your child will not be attending the residential visit, please let us know as soon as possible, so that arrangements for their learning in school can be made.

An Introduction to Year 6 Meeting – Wednesday 9th September, 5pm.

We would like to invite you to attend a short presentation regarding the Year 6 curriculum, the forthcoming residential trip and other arrangements for the year. This will include an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have about any aspect of your child's final year with us at Withycombe. This will take place in the school hall at 5pm on Wednesday 9th September. Please can we limit the numbers to a maximum of 2 adults per family – it is easier if children do not attend (the presentation is aimed at adults). Please complete and return the form at the end of this letter if you are able to attend so that we know how many people to prepare for.

Rivers and The Trojan Horse (The Ancient Greeks)

For the first half of the Autumn Term we will be learning all about 'Rivers'. This will build on children's prior knowledge and learning about rivers and we will also link some of our English work to this topic when we write persuasive letters. We are excited for our upcoming Geography Field Trip (Wednesday 9th September) which was communicated before the summer holidays. We will be exploring our local river, looking at trades, habitats and river use. Further information on this can be found in your MCAS app, where payment and consent details can be found.

Our main topic for the second half of the Autumn Term is 'The Trojan Horse', during which the children will learn about many aspects of life from Ancient Greek times. To start this exciting topic with a flourish, we will be holding an 'Ancient Greek Day' (Date TBC, more details to follow). This will feature many exciting activities, designed to immerse the children into the stories and life in Ancient Greek times, including sessions with Clive Pig, who is a brilliant storyteller.

Please see the attached Curriculum Web for further information regarding specific areas of learning in the Autumn Term.

Home Learning and Reading

It is proven to be highly beneficial to their development if children read aloud for about 15-20 minutes daily. Every child should be heard reading aloud at home each day. Please ensure that you are an active participant in your child's reading journey. We will be continuing to use Sparx Primary Reader (now known as Black Belt Reader) to track children's reading, following the success with Sparx last year.

Spellings will be set every Friday for a test the following week and we will be using Spelling Shed to support the learning of spellings at home. Engagement with Spelling Shed will be monitored by teachers each week.

Times Tables practice will be monitored using Times Tables Rock Stars. Please encourage your children to practise their times tables and related facts daily, for between 10 and 15 minutes each day. Engagement with TTRS will be monitored by teachers each week.



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Further Home Learning tasks will be set, with the aim of one–two research-based tasks each half term, based on current or upcoming curriculum topics. Further details about how these Home Learning tasks will be sent home will be shared by the end of next week.

If for any reason your child is struggling or cannot complete any of these tasks, please discuss with your child's class teacher as soon as possible. Please support your child to complete these to the best of their ability, but remember that we do need to gather an accurate picture of what your child is capable of. If you experience any issues with any aspect of home learning, please let us know.

Contacting Staff

If you wish to contact us, we have class email accounts to enable quick, timely communication between home and school. Please use the relevant email address for your child's class (kingfisher@wrpschool.org, osprey@wrpschool.org, kestrel@wrpschool.org) if you should wish to contact your child's teacher. Emails will be monitored regularly and responded to as quickly as possible.

We hope that your child will have an extremely happy and successful year in Year 6. We look forward to working with all of our families to create a positive learning experience in your child's final year at primary school.

With kind regards

The Year 6 Teaching Team

Key Dates:

Wednesday 9th September – Geography Field Trip
Wednesday 9th September, 5pm – Year 6 Parents' Information Evening
Friday 11th September – Flu Immunisations
Tuesday 22nd September – Individual Photos
Monday 5th – Wednesday 7th October – Year Six Residential at Barton Hall
Tuesday 20th, Thursday 22nd October – Parents' Evenings
Monday 26th October – Friday 6th November – Half Term
Date TBC November – Ancient Greek Day



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Year 6 Introductory Evening: Please return slips by Wednesday 9th September.

Please indicate if you would like to attend the Year 6 Introductory Meeting on Wednesday 9th September (for parents / carers). The presentation will take place in the school hall starting at 5 p.m.

Name of child : _____ Year 6 Class (please circle): Osprey Kestrel Kingfisher

Name of adults attending (max 2 per child): _____

Watching Films in Year 6:

We sometimes find suitable material to share with children in PG films, but require your permission to show a complete film. Please would you sign your name on the following slip to indicate if you are (or are not) happy for your child to watch PG films in Year 6 (these will always be checked for suitability by the teachers!). Please return this form promptly to the Year 6 teachers.

☐ I give consent / ☐ do not give consent for my child to watch PG films in Year 6

Child's name: _____ Y6 Class (please highlight/circle): Ospreys Kestrels Kingfishers

Your name and relationship to child: _____