

Year 6

Parent Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term 1 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! It is fantastic to have the pupils back with us - we are really excited to be returning to school and to be teaching your children! We trust you had an enjoyable summer break and that the pupils are looking forward to an exciting programme of lessons in the autumn term. This letter is a detailed overview of our curriculum for this half-term showing the areas of study for every subject.

If you wish to contact me our class email address is year6@gadevalley.herts.sch.uk, however please be aware that a response may take up to 48 hours, therefore if you have an urgent question or concern, please contact the school office on 01442 391324.

Finally, each week I will be uploading photos of your children's work onto our class webpage. Please take a look and enjoy!

Kind regards,

Mr van der Westhuyzen and Mrs Chapman

English	<p>Week 1 and 3: Recounts: Diary Entries - In this unit, the pupils will write a diary entry about their favourite day in the summer holidays. We will investigate the features of recounts and the pupils will learn about the difference between phrases and clauses. The pupils will be challenged to use parenthesis to add extra information and to use a range of sentence structures in their work.</p> <p>Week 2: Baseline Assessment Week and Comprehension Skills - The pupils will complete Reading, Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar and Accelerated Reader STAR reading assessments this week. We will also focus on developing inference skills in focussed comprehension lessons.</p> <p>Week 4 - 6 : Fantasy Stories - We will read and analyse a selection of short stories from 'Tales of Outer Suburbia' by Shaun Tan. We will explore the structure of fantasy stories and will revisit the use of modal verbs and dialogue. We will complete this unit by writing a new fantasy story in the style of Shaun Tan.</p> <p>Week 7: Persuasive Writing - We will identify the features of persuasive writing and the pupils will learn to use modal verbs, rhetorical questions, formal tone as well as the correct format for writing a persuasive letter. We will write to Mr Barron and use a real-life context as the basis for our letters.</p> <p>Handwriting - The pupils will be taught to use continuous cursive in daily lessons. They will apply this skill throughout the curriculum.</p> <p>Spelling - This will be taught daily - the pupils will learn a range of spelling patterns from the Year 5/6 spelling list.</p> <p>WeRead: The pupils will have a guided reading session every day. Three of these sessions will be whole class guided reading lessons. In these sessions the pupils will be reading 'Friend or Foe' by Michael Morpurgo. The two remaining sessions will focus on developing comprehension skills.</p> <p>Once upon a time: At the end of each day, we read a high quality text to the pupils for 15 minutes. These sessions promote and develop a love of reading as pupils are exposed to books and genres which they might not naturally choose themselves. Our first book this term we will be 'Tales from Outer Suburbia' by Shaun Tan.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Week 1 : Read, write and compare 6-digit numbers and know what each digit represents; multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000, rounding decimals.</p> <p>Week 2 : Baseline Assessment Week: the pupils will complete a range of tests focussing on both arithmetic and problem solving skills. We will also revise rounding whole numbers.</p> <p>Week 3 : Use mental addition strategies to solve additions; use column addition to add 5-digit numbers and decimal numbers.</p> <p>Week 4 : Column subtraction with 5-digit numbers and decimal numbers; multi-step problem solving involving addition and subtraction.</p> <p>Week 5 : Use mental multiplication strategies to multiply by numbers such as 4, 8, 5, 25, 19, 29 and 99; revise using short multiplication to multiply 4-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers; multiplication of four digit numbers by teen numbers.</p> <p>Week 6 : Short division using the bus-stop method; long division.</p> <p>Week 7 : Converting improper fractions to mixed numbers; comparing and ordering fractions; fractions of amounts; percentages.</p>
Science	<p>Light : In this unit, the pupils will learn about reflection, refraction and how we see. The pupils will understand how light travels and how this enables us to see objects. The pupils will carry out experiments into the effects of bending light and explore how light creates the colours we see.</p>
Computing	<p>Communication : In this unit, the class will learn about the World Wide Web as a communication tool. First, the pupils will learn how we find information on the World Wide Web, through learning how search engines work (including how they select and rank results) and what influences searching. Then we will investigate different methods of communication, before focussing on internet-based communication. Finally, the pupils will evaluate which methods of internet communication to use for particular purposes.</p>
P.S.H.C.E.	<p>Being me in my World : The pupils will identify and set goals for the coming year. They will discuss their fears and worries about the future and will think about how they can express these appropriately. We will look at the universal rights of the child and will compare how these are applied in different communities. The pupils will learn about what it means to be a global citizen and will further develop their understanding of how their individual behaviour can impact the class as a group. We will complete this unit by creating a learning charter.</p>

History	Battle of Britain: This half-term the pupils will be learning about the Battle of Britain. They will examine a wide range of historical sources to help them understand the thinking of the leaders of Nazi Germany in May 1940 and the reasons why securing air superiority was so critical to them. The pupils will also identify and reach a judgment about the relative importance of the factors that contributed to the United Kingdom winning the Battle of Britain.
Art	Drawing: The pupils will be identifying the key features of street art and murals. We will discuss the intention and impact of street art and pupils will learn to use various shading techniques to show texture, tone, form and depth. Pupils will also learn about one point perspective and scaling using an accurately drawn grid.
RE	What is church? The pupils will be challenged to think about whether the church is a building, its people or both. They will explore ways in which the church supports members of their own community and how they reach out to help others.
PE	Invasion Games : This half term, we are learning the skills and rules within invasion games, focussing on tag-rugby. Pupils will develop their understanding of attacking and defending principles and will learn to think about the skills, strategies and tactics they can use to outwit the opposition. The pupils will also learn about the importance of fair-play and honesty while self-managing games and learning and abiding by key rules. Our PE lessons will be on Friday.
French	French sport and the Olympics : This half term, the pupils will be learning about French sports and Olympic culture. They will learn relevant vocabulary, including verbs like "jouer" and "faire," to enable students to discuss sports and the Olympics in French. The pupils will learn how to say "to go" to an event and how to express their preferences.
Homework	Maths: Tasks will be set on a Friday. Pupils will be completing consolidation work , which they have covered in class. Please ensure that you write a comment in your child's planner by the following Wednesday. These will be checked by staff in school on Wednesday so that any misconceptions can be addressed. Please also ensure your child completes at least 25 minutes on TT Rockstars each week. Reading : Please ensure that your child reads at least 5 times each week: the pupils require 5 reads to be eligible for the Golden Ticket draw in which they can win a Wonka bar! It is important that a range of texts are read at home. Whilst reading with your child, I would encourage you to draw attention to: punctuation, grammar, sentence structures, vocabulary choices and the organisation of writing (i.e. paragraphing and layout).
Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 15th September - Year 6 Meet the teacher (9:00am) • Friday 26th September - Year 6 Trip to Parliament (See letter for further details) • Thursday 2nd October - Year 6 GOAL Day • Friday 3rd October - INSET Day • Monday 6th October - Year 6 Bible presentation (See letter for further details) • Monday 13th to Friday 17th October - Bikeability Course • Tuesday 14th October - Parent/teacher consultations (08:00 - 10:30am) • Wednesday 15th October - Parent/teacher consultations (4:00 - 7:00pm) • Thursday 23rd October - Flu immunisations (See letter for further details) • Friday 24th October - End of half-term