

# Year 6 Newsletter

## Spring Term 2 2023: Our Precious Planet

### Year 6

**Teachers:** Mrs Ward plus management time covered by Ms Crolla

**TA:** Mrs Holmes

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or progress, please do not hesitate to speak directly with Mrs Ward.

Boosters after school are open to all Y6 children and start again week 1 spring 2 every Tuesday and Thursday 3.15 to 4.15pm. Snacks needed!



### Important Days

#### Tuesday and Friday

PE lessons - full kits needed with trainers.

#### Friday

Homework due and reading diaries should be signed by parents.

Children should bring their reading diaries, reading jotters and school books into school every day.

ALL children must have a grey school jumper/cardigan in school on non-PE days.

**Please label all uniform.**

### RE - Jesus, The Messiah

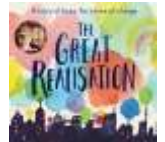
Children will have the opportunity to deepen understanding of Jesus and reflect on what we believe about our faith, understand that Jesus is the Messiah and be aware of what this means for us. Children will learn about the final journey

Jesus made to Jerusalem and reflect on the thoughts and feelings of Jesus. They will revisit the events of Holy Thursday and reflect on the importance of these events for us today. They will learn about the crucifixion of Jesus and reflect on what it was like for Mary and the disciples. Y6 will also continue learning about other faiths with a focus on Islam this half term.



### English

Children will learn new subject specific language linked to the topic. They will evaluate the features and language of non-chronological reports and comment on their effectiveness. They will plan and write their own non-chronological reports linked to the topic of Our Precious Planet with choice around the content. Children will evaluate the features and language of persuasive and formal letters. They will look at how cohesion is created within and across paragraphs, and how to manipulate sentence structure to have impact. They will plan and write letters of persuasion linked to their topic of Precious Planet. Self-editing skills will focus on accurate use of commas and apostrophes as well as maintaining the best standards in the basics already worked on. SPAG will focus on building their confidence using colons, semi-colons and complex sentences as well as weekly spellings. We will be reading a new text by Tomfoolery, and other various poets around the topic of environment.



### Mathematics

Year 6 will cover the following areas in maths: data handling, solving problems with money, averages, time, percentages of amounts and fractions. Y6 made good progress last half term with fractions, and we will keep this bubbling with regular quick practise. All the maths for the half term will include lots of opportunities to work with multi-step word problems and applying skills of all 4 operations (+ - X /). We will also recap on properties of shape and symmetry, rotation and translation of shapes. Many children still don't know their rapid recall accurately of times tables and division facts and **this hampers their progress in maths**. These should be mastered by end of Y4. Please help your child at home by putting time aside to use Times Tables Rock Stars which supports developing this skill well. 10 minutes every day will make the world of difference!



### Science

In science the children will be learning about living things and classification. We will be focusing on the living things in our local environment and working in the school woodland to identify and classify the plant and animal species living there. We will also learn about microorganisms and how they can be both harmful and useful. The children will be conducting a mouldy investigation and using their maths skills to handle the data they collect. Finally, the children will research how climate change is affecting different species in our local area and how we can help plants and animals thrive around us.



### DT

In DT this half term the children will be looking at how the design and purpose of robots has developed over time. We will look at what robots are used for and the effectiveness of different designs, before planning to make our own robot using prior knowledge of electronic circuits to help us. The practical element of this work will be building a solar powered robot with LEDs, circuitry and cells. The children will choose a robot for a particular purpose and adapt the design to customise it. We will then evaluate our work and look at the role of British electronics designer James Dyson in robotics.



### MFL

For MFL we will focus on how we can describe ourselves and other people in French. This topic builds on the grammar work we have previously completed, allowing children opportunities to further develop their use of the masculine, feminine and plural forms of adjectives. We will practise speaking and writing sentences describing both physical and personality characteristics of people, along with revising hair and eye colour. Finally, we will research French Easter customs and learn key vocabulary related to celebrating Easter in France.



### Music

Year 6 will be learning about improvisation. We will learn how to improvise over a chord pattern and how to create rhythms using words and sentences. We will learn the 12 Bar Blues and use tuned percussion, our own instruments or GarageBand instruments to create a whole class band and we will compose a piece of music using the notes of the pentatonic scale.



### PE

In PE lessons with Ms Crolla, the children will be continuing to improve their netball skills. We will focus on passing, footwork, finding space and how to use the court by playing different positions. The children will have plenty of chance to play matches and practise skills and drills in different ways. They will learn about the Vitality Roses and consider current inequalities in the sport.



### PSHE

Using the Tomfoolery Poem 'The World Awaits', we will consider the positive and negative impact of our actions, not just linked to environment but the smallest of actions in everyday life and how these impact on others. We will look again at responsible use of social media as lots of children have access now via their mobile phones and have WhatsApp groups, etc. Leeds United Education Team will be visiting us to deliver a workshop called 'choice' to address positive/negative choices, consequences, anti-social behaviour, knife crime and gang affiliation. We will also spend some more time to develop a deeper understanding of the word 'manipulation' so that the children can identify healthy and unhealthy relationships including signs of grooming.



### History

The topic this half term is Our Precious Planet. Y6 will learn lots of new topic vocabulary to start with. They will learn about different biomes and learn to locate the different biomes around the world. Children will write postcards from each biome describing the climate, weather, animals and vegetation. Children will learn that different places around the world have different resources and how climates can impact on resources. They will start to categorise resources into agricultural or geological. Children will learn about how humans are creating a climate emergency, and how important sustainability measures now are. They will look at plastic pollution around the world and how this impacts on plastic pollution in rivers and oceans.



### Homework

It's crucial that Y6 develop good homework habits in preparation for Y7. They should by now be independent managing their homework schedules and diaries so that work is completed every week on time. All children must continue to read for a minimum of 20 minutes 5 days a week and record this in their reading diaries. Please encourage your child to complete the reading journal homework tasks too which are free choice but really worthwhile and linked to our class reading challenge 'The Book Tucker Trial'. Mathematics tasks should be cleared as set and TTRS completed for 10 minutes daily. The homework policy is available on the school website.

### Ways to Help Your Child

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we consider that strong school-parent links are an essential part of ensuring our pupils achieve their potential. We really appreciate the support you give your children at home to help them with their learning.

Please ensure that you **continue to listen to your child reading their school reading book** and write each time you listen in their homework diaries; listening to your child will improve their reading ability compared to leaving them to read alone. In addition, your child will have an advantage in English if **you read a book to them regularly**. Model good reading skills and use the AF questions to develop their comprehension. These are available on the school website.

The KS2 KIRFS are also here for you in the table to refer to. These will be practiced in school daily to keep their skills polished!

After school boosters are open to everyone on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7
Know and identify equivalent fractions (including converting to decimals).	Know decimals to using tenths to the nearest whole number	Convert fractions to decimals & percentages (tenths).	Convert fractions to decimals & percentages (hundredths).	Use common factors and multiples to simplify fractions