

In years 5 and 6 we aim to prepare children for the next stage of their education by developing independence, stimulating curiosity, a love of learning and encouraging them to take responsibility for their own learning.



General information

- Your child will go in to one of four mixed Year 5/6 classes. Although children spend the majority of their time with their class teacher, we operate a flexible system, tailored to the needs of all children. In practice, this means that children may be taught in different groups in some subjects in order to maximise their potential for learning.
- The school day starts at 8.55 a.m. Children have a 20 minute morning break during which they may purchase a healthy snack in the school canteen. The school day ends at 3.15 p.m.
- Teaching staff are present in the playground at the end of the day, should a parent or carer need to speak to them about any matter.

Expectations

In upper Key Stage 2 we have high expectations for all the children, which are summarised below:

- Children are expected to take a degree of responsibility for their own learning. This includes issues such as ensuring homework is completed satisfactorily and handed in on time and identifying their own strengths and areas for improvement in different areas of learning.
- Children are expected to set high standards in terms of their behaviours and attitudes in school in order to provide a positive role model for younger pupils.
- Children are expected to contribute to wider aspects of school life by taking on roles such as House captains or vice-captains, recycling monitors, play leaders, school ambassadors and by representing the school in competitive events.
- Children are expected to set themselves high standards in terms of academic excellence and the development of their social skills and to strive to be the best that they can be at all times.

Inspiring Learning

We aim to inspire the children to learn by providing fun and memorable experiences (see gallery below) which are designed to stimulate thinking and to really immerse and engage the children in their learning. This is achieved through a topic based approach with an emphasis on offering a range of stimulating events and activities which include educational visits, experts visiting school and events planned by the children to share with parents and friends.

Gallery



Western rock band



Astronaut training



Victorian experience



Geography field trip



Environmental art



Enterprise event



Gorge walking at East Barnby



Yorkshire air museum



Science with the mad professor!



Inspiring poetry at Brimham Rocks

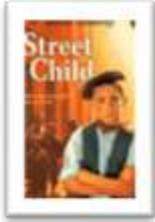


Newcastle bridge study

Learning through topics

Teaching and learning is organised through topic which may run for a whole term or half a term. Since classes are a mixture of Y5 and Y6 children, topics are organised on a two-year rolling programme. Through the topics, we cover all of the requirements of the new National Curriculum but we also extend children's knowledge, skills and understanding by expanding their learning beyond these statutory requirements. Current topics are listed below and additional information can be found in the planning section of the website.

Cycle 1



Street Child:

This topic explores the plight of poor children in Victorian Britain. It is a fascinating topic which is brought to life by the history of Western school and the life of Jim Jarvis, a real-life boy who inspired Thomas Barnardo to set up his children's charity



Space Invaders:

An exciting topic which is largely science based but with a historical twist. The children will explore our solar system but will also conduct a mini-topic on Roman invasions.



Food for Thought:

This topic enables the children to explore a range of important issues such as healthy living and sustainability whilst also having a distinct slant towards geography.

Cycle 2



The Big Build:

In this topic, children explore the history of bridges and embark on a project to design and build a bridge for a specific purpose. A real engineering challenge!



Our Amazing World:

Earthquakes, volcanoes and the needs of the developing world – all are explored in this exciting topic.



Civilisations:

The world of the ancient Greeks is brought back to life as children consider their legacy and marvel at their art and ingenuity.

Learning through homework

Children are expected to complete two pieces of homework each week in addition to learning spellings. Maths homework is set on a Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday. Each child has a maths homework book but teachers are increasingly setting maths homework online using Mathletics (see below).



A topic homework menu is provided each term for the children to work through. This is typically comprised of the equivalent of one homework task per week related to the current topic. Tasks are structured to appeal to a variety of interests and learning styles. They include writing, art, investigations and design tasks and children may choose to do them in any order. Each pupil is provided with a homework file.

The children are expected to show significant independence and creativity in homework tasks and are asked to be responsible for ensuring they are completed on time.

Online learning

In Years 5 and 6 we use Spellodrome and Mathletics. These are two powerful, online learning resources designed to motivate the children and improve their skills and abilities in spelling and maths. Each pupil has a username and password and can access the site both at school and at home.



Effective Learners Forever (ELF)

This is a resource which has been created by the school and which encourages the development of a specific set of skills which are key to becoming an independent learner. Individual ELF skills are highlighted during lessons depending on their relevance and the children are encouraged to reflect on the extent to which they can use and apply these skills.

Signposted learning

Children are provided with signposts (targets) for their learning in reading, writing and maths. These are shared with the children who are also encouraged and expected to consider for themselves, what their individual goals need to be. This is an effective way of ensuring that children evaluate and reflect on their learning and, in so doing, take some degree of responsibility for it.



Learning to be healthy

Each child in Years 5 and 6 can purchase a healthy snack at breaktime or bring their own if they prefer. All children are encouraged to bring a water bottle into class each day so that they can keep themselves hydrated.

If you have any further questions or require any additional information about the content of this leaflet, or any other aspect of life in Years 5 and 6, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 5 and 6 Team.