

Dear Parents of Year 6 and Children,

Welcome to Year 6 - the final year of primary school at Bishop Cornish! I hope you've all had a super holiday and spent some quality time together!

We have a fun-filled, learning-rich, bustling busy year ahead! Please find below some useful information, which may be helpful when helping your child with their learning and organisation!

Our topic this term is World War II, where the children will be learning about the people, places and events of wartime Britain. We shall turn back time and discover a world of rationing and 'making do' and learn about the lengths people went to help and support each other in such a difficult period of history. We will be exploring, experiencing and investigating WWII through many of the subjects including: English, History, Geography, P.E., Art, Music, ICT, Design and Technology amongst others. We will be planning an evacuation to the countryside, a VE day party and many other exciting events! There will also be a WWII homework project – information to come!

Homework:

Homework is set on a Friday and due in the following Friday. On some occasions, homework will be due in on Monday e.g. research or learning words for a play or poem/song etc.

Weekly homework will consist of:

Maths:

- either a worksheet or internet-based activity/ies related to topics we have covered/ revision, or a game/ investigation.

English:

- reading 20 minutes minimum per day (alternate between reading independently and reading aloud);
- spellings – these are independent, specific and vary according to the child and spelling focus;
- something relating to written English, e.g. a writing task or SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar!) This will take the form of their WWII project during the autumn term.

Homework set should take no longer than an hour per week (this does not include reading, spellings or times table practice). Homework is marked as a class (if recorded) or children have the opportunity to talk about or present their work, where positive feedback or reinforcement will be given.

R.E. and Act of Worship is central to, and is a living, breathing part of everything we do here at Bishop Cornish School, filtering in to every aspect of school life. R.E. lessons will be focussing on Christian themes for the majority of the year, e.g. Salvation. We will also be learning about Buddhism later in the summer term and comparing it to Christianity. Please do join us for Family Worship on Thursday mornings at 9:10 if you are able!

P.E. is timetabled for Mondays and Wednesdays, so please ensure your child has the correct kit. P.E. times can change at the last minute (due to weather for example), so kit needs to be in the whole week. Swimming will be on Friday mornings for this term only, until the end of November (see the newsletter or website for more details).

On Tuesdays, Year 6 will be taught Science by Mrs. Oakes and Spanish by Mrs. Garner; both are experts in their fields! You may know Mrs. Oakes from Preschool; however, she

is also a very experienced KS2 teacher! ☺ The science topic for this term is '*Light*.'

Thursday afternoons are Art and Design, taught by Mrs. Hill, who is an Art and Design specialist. She will be teaching the skills and techniques to turn Year 6 into budding Micheal Angelos!!

We are also very fortunate to have Ms. Thompson working alongside us, who is the Year 6 Teaching and Learning Assistant.

Library - The Year 6 library day is..... Children may borrow books, CDs or DVDs from our well stocked library, which is restocked from the library service termly. Please ensure your child returns items weekly. If they want to hold on to something for longer, they will need to bring it in to renew it.

Mobile phones - If your child needs to bring a mobile phone, please ensure it is labelled on the back and handed in to me in the morning. They are kept securely in the office until the end of the day.

We will be having **parent consultations** in a few weeks time, where you can come and find out how your child is settling into their new environment, as well as a chance to tell me more about your child. If you need to see me before (or any time for that matter!), please do not hesitate to make an appointment or pop your head around the door, if I'm free! :-)

Some useful ideas to help your child:

Reading

- When your child reads, allow them to read independently to themselves (in their heads and/or aloud) as well as sitting with your child, listening to them read aloud to you. Ask questions which make them think about the plot, or intention of characters, author intent, predicting how events will end, or to show how they know something by asking them to '*prove it*;' finding and showing you where in the book their idea comes from. Talk about difficult or new vocabulary, finding out the meaning together or find similar words (synonyms) which could replace the word.

- It is also **really important** to read *to* your child. Not only will your child enjoy listening to you, but they will subconsciously learn how to use intonation to colour the text, and how to 'read' punctuation; putting in the correct pauses and raising or dropping the voice at the right time etc. You're never too old to listen to a story!

- Listen to story CDs in the car; ones the whole family can enjoy! This subconsciously 'feeds the brain' with story structures, sentence construction ideas, new and interesting vocabulary, speech ideas, character descriptions... the list is endless!

- Read a variety of texts - not just stories! E.g. magazines, newspapers (a great child's newspaper is 'First News'), information books, shopping lists, instructions to games etc.

Writing

- Keep a family diary where everyone inputs something for the day/week. Encourage your child to write in full sentences and use interesting vocabulary. Reading yours first

may give them ideas of sentence structure, word choice, handwriting styles (neatly please! :-)) or punctuation etc.

- Write a story together - take turns to write the next part! Perhaps start the next paragraph, letting your child write the rest, e.g. Suddenly, without warning a dark and mysterious...
- Encourage your child to take part in a writing competition, e.g. the BBC2 Short Story competition, or write to Blue Peter etc.
- Write a book review for Waterstones - they often put them up on display for the public to read!

Maths

- Play games, which help children, keep score or use arithmetic or mental maths in some way, e.g. Velcro darts, or card games... or make them up! There are conkers around at the moment; can you make up a game using conkers that encourages mental calculation?
- Get your child involved in the shopping list or an order online - give them a budget and ask them to work out how much a meal (or a week's menu) would cost or work out the change from £20, £100 depending on ability etc.
- Make up silly songs to remember mathematical facts, times-tables, rules etc. This can also be very useful for SPAG!
- Earn pocket money in small amounts and get them to keep a log, adding up as they go, deducting anything they spend! Lots of decimals in this as well as written methods for addition and subtraction!
- Get them to be the teacher and teach you something!... (even if it's not 100% correct! Giving them the opportunity to share their learning boosts esteem, and develops courage and a willingness to learn. This can really help them along on their learning journey!)

Projects

- Help them organise and plan what it is they want to find out and guide them in the right direction. *Please don't write it for them!*
- Make it fun: go to a museum, cook an authentic recipe, visit a relative with a questionnaire, make a model... etc.

General

- Be really positive and celebrate any and everything they get right - don't just focus on the negative things! If they are sharing some work that they are doing e.g. long multiplication questions for homework, congratulate every little detail they have got right then look at the things that may need attention... getting a wrong answer is not a failure; they may have learned or improved on many little steps in the working-out process!
- If you, yourself, are unsure of something, come and see me and I'll show you what I taught the children... *please don't be embarrassed! Most adults haven't needed to do long division for a very long time!!* 😊