



# Year 6 Home Learning- September/ October 2023



(This newsletter is slightly more detailed as it is the first one)

## WELCOME!

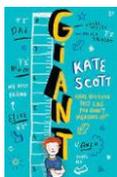


Welcome to our 1<sup>st</sup> Year 6 home learning information sheet. We hope this will give an insight into what we are learning about in class and how you can best support your child's learning at home. Please encourage your child to become independent and take responsibility for their school bag/belongings ensuring they are prepared for the day ahead.

## YEAR 6

### Shared Reading

Our class novel this term is 'Giant' by Kate Scott. This will be read to the children at 'story time' in order to give them a little time each day just to chill out, listen and enjoy the story. It is a very relatable and age appropriate story which the children will hopefully really enjoy, lending itself to lots of discussion about everyday life and its challenges as a child. Some of our Literacy activities during the next 2 months will be related to this novel.



### The team in Year 6

For those of you who don't know us...

#### Year 6A Teachers

Hi everyone! My name is **Lisa Brown** and this is my 31<sup>st</sup> year teaching! I have been in Ebrington for 29 of those years. I have experience in all areas of school from the nursery upwards, and I'm also the Literacy co-ordinator. Family life is busy, with 2 teenage children studying for important exams. In my spare time I love chilling out on the North Coast (my happy place!) I'm really looking forward to getting to know your lovely children!

Hello everyone 😊. My name is **Jillian Johnston** and this will be my 18<sup>th</sup> year teaching KS2 at Ebrington. I have two sons (Primary 7 and Primary 3) who like to keep me very busy. We live on a farm and I really enjoy the peacefulness of the countryside. I like walking my dog, reading and spending time with my family. Most of my Saturday mornings are spent watching football matches. I am looking forward to getting to know your children for a wonderful year of learning and fun.

#### Year 6B Teacher

Hello everyone. My name is **Janine McCrea** and I have been teaching for 12 years. I have been a KS2 teacher in Ebrington for over 10 years. I'm looking forward to getting to know all the pupils and families in our class and becoming part of your learning journey. I'm sure we will have many laughs along the way! I have 2 young children and in my spare time I like to spend it with my family, usually at a beach in Portrush or Donegal. I also like to crochet and I make baby hats for Altnagelvin.

### Classroom Assistants in Year 6

**Year 6A:** Miss Becky Taggart

**Year 6B:** Mrs Kaitlyn McCready

### Literacy



We start Year 6 Literacy, focussing on recounts and using questioning techniques to develop our writing. Please encourage your child to use a dictionary and thesaurus, as we will be using these in class throughout the year.

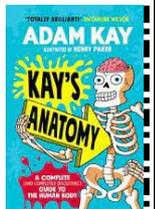
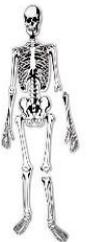
We will look at idioms and the ability to identify idioms which we use in everyday life. We will have a weekly focus on building your child's comprehension skills. Please support your child as much as possible when completing their reading homework and encourage them to discuss the plot, characters and to form opinions on what they have read. These are important elements which we are aiming to develop through guided reading. Please ensure your child comes to school having fully prepared their reading ahead of their 'reading day.'

We are pleased to introduce ACCELERATED READING to Primary 6 this year. Your children will complete a simple test online within school to establish their reading level and choose their individual reading book accordingly.

### World

#### Around Us

Our topic this term is 'Full of life'. We will be looking at all aspects of 'Ourselves'. Starting with the skeleton and vital organs. We will be investigating the digestive and circulatory system and understanding what a healthy lifestyle entails. We will also be learning about our topic area by reading parts of the book 'Kay's Anatomy.'



### Homework

Homework is set daily. This could be Phonics, Literacy, Numeracy or topic based. Homework will always reinforce what has been taught in class and will be explained to the pupils before it is sent home.

Please sign the bottom of your child's homework and ensure homework is handed in on time.

The spellings and tables jotter (purple book) must be brought in to school each day to be marked in preparation for Friday test. On a Monday there will be a hw page linked to their number focus which can be put into their purple book.

Your child will be given time to write down their homework each day when they first come in to school. Encourage your child to write the details of this down neatly and accurately.

Homework will generally follow this routine:

Monday: Literacy/Phonics hw

Tuesday: Numeracy hw

Wednesday: Literacy hw- could link to topic work too

Thursday: Numeracy hw

It will take a little while for us all to get into a routine and that's fine.

### Numeracy

The Northern Ireland curriculum splits Numeracy into the following areas: Number, Shape & Space, Measures & Data Handling. There is a lot of content to cover throughout the course of the year.

These are the areas we will be learning about over the next 2 months:

- Place Value
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Division
- Multiplication (including long multiplication)



We will have a times tables focus each week, beginning on a Monday and although we do go over these in school and learn them in fun ways it is essential that time is spent at home learning the times tables. They help in so many areas of Numeracy which will become evident as the year progresses.

Quick Mental Maths activities are completed each morning (Mon-Thurs)

This is a very good way to keep skills sharp and revise over other topic areas in Numeracy.

Each Friday, we focus on Problem Solving. This is a key area to cover as it teaches the children to use and apply their Numeracy skills & knowledge. They will have to think how to approach a problem in order to solve it and also teaches them to persevere and not to give up easily.

Where possible, the problem-solving activity will link to the learning that week and sometimes it will be a stand alone lesson.

Here are some useful Numeracy websites for your child in their spare time.

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/>

<https://www.mathplayground.com/>

<https://mathantics.com/>

[place value - Topmarks Search](#)

[Topmarks: teaching resources, interactive resources, worksheets, homework, exam and revision help](#)

### Self-Assessment

In school, we encourage the children to self-asses. At the end of a lesson or activity the children draw a red dot, yellow dot or green dot (like traffic lights) to inform the teacher about how they feel about their learning.

**Red dot-** I'm finding this hard and need some help.

**Yellow dot-** I'm finding this ok but I need more practise.

**Green dot-** I'm happy with my learning.

Please encourage and remind your child to self-assess at the end of their homework so when we are marking it we can see how your child feels. If your child or you as their parent want to write a comment that is also fine.

### Personal Development & Mutual Understanding (PDMU)

PDMU in Ebrington is taught through the PATHS programme. This stands for Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies.

Over the next 2 months we will be covering the following areas:

- Formulating classroom rules
- PATHS pupil of the day
- Co-operative learning skills

### P.E

Year 6 begin swimming on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September in Foyle Arena.

This is part of our P.E for the next 10 weeks.

Please ensure your child comes prepared to school with their swimming kit each Monday.

### R.E

Religious Education is part of the N.I Curriculum. It focuses on encouraging children to become informed and inquisitive about their own and others' religious beliefs and practices. R.E in Ebrington is taught through a programme called 'Bible Time.' The lessons are short and explain things in terms the children can understand.

### ICT

Year 6 are timetabled for the iMac suite regularly throughout the week and are timetabled for the computers in the library once per week.

We will focus on developing our skills using Microsoft Office and completing ICT tasks at the appropriate level for Year 6. We will also use the Internet to research themes linked to our WAU topic.

- The Golden Rule
- Introduction to Feelings
- Recognising and controlling anger
- Feelings Dictionary
- My own feelings story
- Treasure hunt- Problem Solving

### The Arts (Art, Music, Drama)

The Arts develops children's creativity and encourages them to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world through pictures, sound, drama and dance.

A lot of our Art will link to our topic area. Some will be stand alone and link in with a special occasion or calendar event. We will explore music and sing songs in class and a lot of our drama happens through PATHS when we act out a particular social situation.

### Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities (TSPC)

All parts of the curriculum emphasise the development of Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. These skills help pupils to think critically and creatively. They also help them to develop personal and interpersonal skills and dispositions that are essential for functioning effectively in a changing world.

The Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities are:

- Managing Information
- Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making
- Being Creative
- Working with Others
- Self-Management.

TSPC cannot be taught stand-alone, but it is woven into other subject areas. **Children are given the opportunities** to develop their thinking skills and personal capabilities. Eg) Through group work in WAU, working with a partner in ICT, planning how to go about a task in problem solving in Numeracy, or becoming more independent in their learning with guidance and support from their teacher.

### Reminders!

Parent interviews on a '**need to**' basis will be held week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Whole class parent interviews will take place in Term 2.

Google Classroom has been handed over to Year 6 teachers from Year 5 teachers, hopefully you are all able to access this and see reminders. Please check this regularly. If you have any problems, please inform your child's teacher.

If you need to contact us, please feel free to email us on:

Mrs McCrea [jmccrea806@c2ken.net](mailto:jmccrea806@c2ken.net)

Mrs Brown [lbrown304@c2ken.net](mailto:lbrown304@c2ken.net)

Mrs Johnston [jjohnston108@c2ken.net](mailto:jjohnston108@c2ken.net)

### Important Dates

Parent Interviews (Need to only basis)- Week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Flu Vaccine- To be confirmed

Mid-term holiday- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

