



ST NICHOLAS' SCHOOL

NURSERY - INFANTS - JUNIORS - SENIORS



YEAR 6
CURRICULUM BOOKLET
2022-23



AT ST NICHOLAS' SCHOOL
EVERYONE IS VALUED, EVERYONE IS SOMEONE



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Welcome to Year 6

This booklet aims to give you a brief idea of what life is like in Year 6 and the work your daughter will be covering.

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Routines

Girls are based with their form teacher in their form room for some of the day but will visit specialist teachers for other lessons. Each girl has a timetable which is stuck into her desk and a copy which was brought home.

Each day begins and ends with the form teacher in the form room. This time is used partly for administration and partly for sharing concerns or triumphs on an informal basis.

Each girl has a school planner in which she will write her homework and any general reminders. This provides a useful contact with parents and can be used to send messages to and from home. Please check it regularly, sign it weekly and make sure that your daughter brings it to school with her every day.

Girls are expected to come into school independently and to take responsibility for their own possessions in Year 6.

Keeping in Touch

As mentioned in the recent letter to parents, we can be contacted via email and we will aim to respond as soon as we can. Parents evenings will continue to take place virtually. We can be contacted via the office or messages in planners.

You will receive one written report at the end of the year, and a grade sheet at the end of the Autumn and Spring Terms. If you need to make contact at other times, it is usually best to write a note in your daughter's planner or contact the office to make an appointment with whichever teacher you wish to see. Form teachers are always happy to speak to parents with concerns. Brief conversations can sometimes be had by arrangement at the beginning or end of the day.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Staff provide a variety of clubs during lunch time. Girls are asked to express a preference. Once activities have been agreed, girls are expected to attend every week. Activities change each term and cover a wide range including music, sport and craft.

After-school activities (including homework club) are organised by Mr Nicholls and a form is sent out in advance of each term so that girls can sign up for those activities they wish to attend.



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Homework

Girls are set homework each night and will be given a timetable for this at the beginning of the year. The homework may be a written task, learning (of tables or spellings for example), or a topic to research.

Please bear the following points in mind:

- Set tasks are normally intended to be completed by the girls alone and they should be encouraged to think for themselves. They may well, however, benefit from a little constructive assistance from time to time.
- It is usually helpful to maintain a routine for homework.
- Bear in mind that, with proper concentration, homework should take no longer than the time stated although enthusiasm to continue should not be discouraged.
- You may occasionally find that your daughter is not able to complete her homework, maybe because she has misunderstood something. You may choose to help her or to send the work back to school incomplete. In either case, please write a note to the teacher so that we are aware that your daughter needs extra support or explanation.
- Girls are expected to hand homework in each day on arrival at school. If homework is regularly missing, late or incomplete, staff will notify parents via the school planner. Girls will usually be asked to complete missing work.

Examinations

Year 6 Girls sit school examinations in Maths, English, Science, History and Geography in the Summer Term. We regard these as an important indicator of progress.

We liaise with staff in the senior department in order to decide on setting where appropriate and to assess each child's potential. Examination results will be taken into consideration during these discussions but are not sole indicators.



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Equipment

Girls should have the following equipment in school with them every day. All items should be clearly named.

- 30cm ruler
- pencils (at least 2)
- pencil sharpener
- Black handwriting pen
- coloured pencils (and felt pens if wanted)
- glue stick
- scissors (metal blades)
- rubber
- basic calculator (optional)
- dictionary (Oxford School Dictionary recommended)
- maths set including protractor and compasses
- Good News Bible



Special Events

There are several events during the year which girls are normally expected to attend. There are two Open Mornings, one in October (1st October 10am –1pm) and one in March. Anyone not able to attend must write a letter to Dr Wright.

There is a Junior Music Evening held in the Spring Term which girls are also expected to attend. The dates of these events can be found on the termly calendars. There is also a Summer Fête and girls are expected to attend to help run a stall. This year there is a Christmas Fair.

There are lots of other events which take place during school hours such as house competitions, internal concerts, theatre workshops, sports day and fundraising activities.

In June, Year 6 will hopefully take part in a week long residential visit, venue to be confirmed.



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Challenging the Able

It is important that each child should achieve their full potential in every lesson. During each lesson children who have achieved the set learning objective will be given extension tasks. These tasks may be on a related topic or be problem solving activities designed to improve a range of thinking skills from fact finding and researching to promoting new and inventive ideas which will enhance children's creativity and finally bringing all the aspects of a problem together to arrive at a solution.

Progress will be monitored carefully and teachers will ensure a balanced range of activities while ensuring that every child is supported and encouraged. In addition many extra-curricular activities and clubs are targeted at the gifted and talented.

Curriculum Support

Some children may require additional support which will be provided by differentiation within lessons as well as by the curriculum support department.

Pupils' need for support can vary depending on the topic studied and we aim to provide for individual requirements as they become apparent. As a result curriculum support groups are flexible.

Curriculum Support can take several forms: small group lessons on a weekly basis, a short intensive programme or, for those not requiring formal support, there is an opportunity to practise mental mathematics and spelling skills. Pupils are recommended for support by the teachers based on their performance in testing and during normal lessons. Parents are always informed before formal curriculum support lessons are started.



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Art

Children develop a variety of skills to include painting, colour mixing cutting and colouring. Other elements include working with clay and papier-mâché. These activities are directed towards engaging the children in the creative process, ensuring it is a positive, practical learning experience linked with reference to other artists and craft traditions of other cultures

Children are taught in the Art Centre where specialised facilities are available.

Design Technology / Food Preparation and Nutrition / Textiles

The girls will be working in three groups which will rotate throughout the year in the 3 disciplines. They will work through a variety of design and make tasks.

For some topics they generate design ideas individually, while for others they work in co-operation with a partner, learning to share ideas and tasks, listen to opinions and reach agreement on the way forward. Topics may be linked to other subjects in the curriculum.

The module of Food Preparation and Nutrition enables the pupils to carry out a number of practical tasks to introduce them to a variety of cookery skills. Theory work concentrates on safety and hygiene in the kitchen. They learn about the importance of healthy eating.

These subjects give the opportunity for the development of practical and social skills in a relaxed and enjoyable environment.

Drama

Emphasis in Year 6 is placed on further developing their skills in script reading, characterisation, vocal techniques, movement and dance. In the Summer term there is a Junior production, and work in the Autumn and Spring is based on different topics, on themes such as 'Victorian Melodrama', Dreams & Fantasy and Performance Poetry. The pupils also participate in a Village Life project, using extended improvisation techniques.

Pupils will also have opportunities for directing their peers in various lessons throughout the year, with guidance from the teacher.



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English

Girls are taught in a mixed ability form groups. Tasks will be differentiated to fit the task.

During each week girls will work on reading comprehension, writing tasks and also undertake specific work on grammar topics. Many different texts are explored, from newspaper reports to poetry. Set novels are read, discussed and evaluated in preparation for more advanced work on literary texts. Individual reading and library skills are regularly reinforced through a structured reading programme designed to widen the range of books which they read as well as to spark their interest and encourage them to evaluate books in detail. A dedicated reading slot is a daily part of the timetable.

DEAR TIME (Drop Everything And Read) takes place daily at 1.45pm. While the girls are reading, the class teacher will have the opportunity to listen to individuals reading and may use the time to read from a novel to model reading aloud. Each girl has a Reading Record; this should be filled in a minimum of three times a week. We would encourage you to listen to your daughter at least once a week and sign the record.

Spelling is taught following both spelling rules and phonics. Homework may be based on a phonics activity or consist of learning for a spelling test.



French and Mandarin

Pupils continue to study French using an interactive oral approach. Children will be involved in a variety of activities including role play, songs, and games. In Year 6 this will include reinforcing and extending grammar and vocabulary connected with shopping, months, days and parts of the body. Year 6 will also continue to learn Mandarin. This foundation will be built upon in Years 7 and 8.



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Geography

In Year 6, the girls will be covering Climate Change, Contrasting Places—Ecuador and look at Caribbean Migration as part of the Windrush History topic. There will be a mix of investigation and map work and links to current affairs.

History

Year 6 study the Victorians, World War II and Windrush Empire and Caribbean migration. Different aspects of life are looked at, ranging from the life and times of Victoria and the British Empire to child labour and the invention of steam engines. In WWII, we will look at the impact of life on children during the war and finally finish with the Windrush Empire and why this happened following WWII.

Information Technology

ICT skills are taught in dedicated lessons and are applied throughout the curriculum. Lessons are tailored to fit the abilities of each group and will include work on word processing, presentations, graphics, data handling, programming and Internet research.





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Mathematics

Year 6 children are grouped into sets for Mathematics and can be moved between sets when necessary. The core work is covered by both classes with the addition of appropriate reinforcement and extension material.

Children are expected to be able to recall a variety of facts rapidly. During the year they will be learning to derive quickly:

- Multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 and corresponding division facts
- Square numbers
- Doubles of two digit numbers including decimals
- Doubles of multiples of 10 to 1000
- Doubles of multiples of 100 to 10,000
- The corresponding halves to the above

Girls will also build on their understanding of the following topics through daily lessons. They will be given regular opportunities to apply their knowledge in problem solving situations.

- addition, subtraction, multiplication and division,
- units of measure,
- time,
- shape and space,
- handling data and probability.

If you are unsure about the methods your child has been taught please consult your daughter's teacher or the Mathematics Handbook for Parents.

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Music

In Year 6, pupils have two lessons per week in the Music Room. In these lessons, they sing, further build their instrumental and vocal skills and follow a structured music course in five units – The Elements of Music, What’s in a Tune, Gamelan, Music for Film and Samba. The girls will also learn to play the Ukulele, developing their ability to read stave and tab notation. These units introduce new musical concepts, techniques and approaches but also provide many opportunities to develop and demonstrate the musical skills, knowledge and understanding that they have gained in previous years.

Girls in Year 6 continue to sing in the Junior Choir and also have the opportunity to audition for the Junior Chamber Choir. A large number of pupils receive individual instrumental lessons and play in the Junior Orchestra or in the Junior Guitar Ensemble.

Physical Education

Sports lessons take place either outside on the field, courts or astro or in the sports hall with specialist teachers.

The recent addition of the ‘games afternoon’ on a Wednesday provides the opportunity for more inter-school fixtures and playing against local independent schools. These matches will mainly be in the core sports of netball, hockey, football and cricket. All pupils will have the opportunity to take part in inter-school fixtures each term as well as inter-house matches, which you are welcome to support. There is also an inter-house Sports Day in the Summer Term.

In addition to this they have a single PE lesson each week in which we can add more depth and breadth to their curriculum. Within this they may experience activities such as: health related fitness, cross country, athletics, dance, tennis, badminton tag rugby.

Additional to this curriculum time there are a range of sporting extra-curricular clubs each term for the pupils to attend as well.

Through physical activity, pupils will develop an understanding of health and fitness. They will also learn valuable life skills such as: teamwork, communication, resilience, empathy and perseverance. They will understand the value of both winning and losing.

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Personal, Social and Health Education

Personal, Social and Health Education is taught once a week in Year 6. PSHE contributes to the girls learning and focuses on the physical, moral, social and vocational aspects. Throughout the year the following topics will be covered: behaviour, relationships, self – esteem, peer pressure, Media literacy and Digital resilience, financial capability, democracy and moral dilemmas.

The girls will have the opportunity to discuss their own feelings and ideas as well as listen to the opinions of others.

Religious Studies

Year 6 study buildings used for Christian worship. Various artefacts and church furniture are looked at, as is the way that buildings reflect the beliefs of the Christians who worship there. Reverend Hellings leads a workshop activity.

Other topics include how Christians recognise important stages in their lives and in the Summer Term, the girls will carry out a group research project on one of the three main world religions not previously covered in the juniors.

Science

In Year 6 girls are taught the three separate sciences: Physics, Chemistry and Biology, in order to prepare them for work in the senior school.

Within Physics, they concentrate on How We See Things. In Chemistry the topic covered is Changing Materials whilst in Biology girls cover Microbes and in the Summer Term the girls will look at human reproduction and birth and carry out a herb project.

Planning, carrying out and interpretation of investigations is emphasised and girls are encouraged to use their own ideas in applying scientific theory to their work.



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