



January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the New Year! We hope you had a restful Christmas break and your children are ready for an exciting, busy year ahead. We are looking forward to continuing to work with you and your children, and we know that we will have a brilliant year together. At Trent, we recognise that your child's success is often attributed to tremendous commitment from the whole family team - thank you in advance for your continuous support. This letter is for your information, outlining the learning taking place in Year 6 during the spring term. Throughout the spring term, we will be covering the following:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Learning taking place at school</b>	<b>Links to previous learning to use as discussion points at home</b>	<b>Additional ideas to support your child at home</b>
Project – history, geography, art, DT and computing	Our project for the half term is 'Frozen Kingdoms' and the Big Question we are exploring is, 'Antarctica: everlasting winter wonderland or changing landscape?' In history, we will study an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066. Using a range of sources of evidence and through exploring mini questions, we will study polar exploration and learn about Ernest Shackleton and his famous 'Endurance' expedition. In geography, we will focus on the Arctic and Antarctic. Children will learn about where these frozen kingdoms are located, how humans	Think back to previous learning in these year groups:  *Reception – winter  *Year 1 – Splendid Skies – weather  *Year 3 – Predator - animals  *Year 4 – Road Trip USA: biomes	Discuss lessons with your child, ask them questions and encourage personal research.

	<p>function there, the difference between polar oceans and other oceans, how climate change is impacting these areas, and what humans are doing to combat climate change. We will explore and use a range of geographical resources including maps, aerial photographs, plans and e-resources. Throughout the half term, Year 6 will develop history and geography skills as well as knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>In Art, term we are going to be creating art with an environmental message. This will take the form of a digital photograph with an environmental message overlaid. In order to do this, we will look at some artists (photographers) in the field and explore the significance of their work.</p> <p>In computing, we will complete a block on 'programming and variables in games' and then move on to 'handling data' with a focus on spreadsheets. Year 6 will learn that objects can be described using data, explain that formulas can be used to produce calculated data, apply formulas to data (including duplicating) and create.</p>		
English – writing and SPaG	We will be reading the text “Incredible Journeys” by Levison Wood and “The Last Bear” by Hannah Gold and using this as stimulus for writing diary entries, job applications and newspaper reports. In our daily SPaG sessions, we will explore using relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, when, whose, that or with an implied	Units of work studied in Year 5 including the range of writing genres covered and new SPaG features	<p>Discuss the current topic with your child, ask them what their targets are and how they can improve their writing.</p> <p>Please encourage the use of a dictionary and thesaurus at home, and remind your child to</p>

	<p>(i.e. omitted) relative pronoun; the use of the semi-colon, colon and dash to mark the boundary between independent clauses [for example, It's raining; I'm fed up]; use of the colon to introduce a list and use of semi-colons within lists; punctuation of bullet points to list information; how hyphens can be used to avoid ambiguity [for example, man eating shark versus man-eating shark, or recover versus re-cover]. We will also cover a range of other SPaG skills that children can apply to their own independent writing including sentence types, passive voice, using punctuation for effect and to avoid ambiguity and tenses.</p>		<p>take extra care with presentation when completing homework activities.</p> <p>If you purchased CGP revision books, encourage your child to complete the activities connected to our in-class learning or any areas they find tricky.</p>
Reading	<p>Daily guided reading sessions will focus on reading for speed and accuracy. Children will develop reading skills to support them in answering a range of question-types including fact retrieval, inference, summarising, and forming opinions and impressions.</p> <p>Additionally, we will be reading the text 'Incredible Journeys' and use this to embed and secure the Year 6 reading objectives.</p>	<p>Units of work studied in Year 5 including the range of writing genres covered and new SPaG features.</p>	<p>Discuss the current topic with your child, ask them what their targets are and how they can improve their writing. Please encourage the use of a dictionary and thesaurus at home, and to take extra care with presentation when completing homework activities. Children will bring home a Year 6 levelled book and should be encouraged to read every day and be able to answer questions about what they have read, as well as give their opinions about the text. Please ask your children a range of questions about what they have read to help develop their understanding. A list of example questions can be found on the 'Book Talk' page in your child's reading journal to help support you when reading with your child. Please sign your child's reading journal on a daily basis so we can see that your child has been reading at home. Reading Journals will be checked and</p>

			<p>signed in school every day. If your child does not read for 2 nights in a row they must miss 5 minutes of their playtime to read.</p> <p>Useful websites:</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.literacyshed.com/">https://www.literacyshed.com/</a></p> <p>Children will be given the opportunity to select a high quality text that is of age-related expectations and should be encouraged to read every day and be able to answer questions about what they have read, as well as give their opinions about the text. Please ask children a range of questions about what they have read to help develop their understanding. A list of example questions can be found on the 'Reading VIPERS' pages in your child's reading journal to help support you when reading with your child. Please sign your child's reading journal regularly so we can see that your child has been reading at home.</p> <p>If you purchased CGP revision books, encourage your child to complete the activities connected to our in-class learning or any areas they find tricky.</p>
Maths	Throughout the half term, we will focus on ratio, algebra, decimals, fractions and decimals and percentages, area, perimeter and volume and statistics. A range of fluency, reasoning and problemsolving activities will be completed	* Year 6 maths builds upon, and consolidates, units of work that have been covered each year throughout your child's	Make sure your child knows all of their multiplication tables and support them with homework if needed. Every week, your child will be set a piece of maths homework linked to the topic we have covered in class.

	including SATs-style questions relating to these areas of maths.	time at Trent, in particular formal methods of the four operations and fraction work studied in Year 5. Discuss mathematical learning from Year 5 linked to these maths areas and revise what was covered in Year 6 last term.	
Science	<p>The Science unit for this half-term will focus on our big question: “How do living things change over time and place.”</p> <p>We will describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals, and give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics. Children will learn how animals and plants are adapted to suit the environment they live in. Year 6 will develop science skills as well as knowledge.</p>	<p>Think back to previous learning in these year groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Reception – the natural world around them</li> <li>*Year 1: animal classification and parts of a plant.</li> <li>*Year 2: what animals and plants need in order to survive</li> <li>*Year 3: Predator project and the needs of different plants.</li> <li>*Year 4: food chains and animal classification keys and groupings</li> </ul>	<p>Discuss the topic at home and ask questions about what your child has discovered.</p> <p>Encourage your child to read non-fiction books related to the topic and share new concepts.</p>

		*Year 5: life processes and cycles of plants and animals	
<b>RE</b>	In RE we will be learning about Buddhism and will focus on the Big Question, 'What does it mean to be a Buddhist?' Throughout the unit, children will explore the following mini questions: What are the Buddhist Symbols and What Do They Mean? What is the Eight-Fold Path and how do Buddhists use this in their daily life? How and where do Buddhists practice their faith? How do Buddhists believe that you could reach nirvana? What is it like to live in the sangha? What do Buddhists believe the meaning of life is? What do Buddhists believe will happen to a person when they die? How are my beliefs similar and different to a person who practices Buddhism?		You can support your child by discussing lessons or topics and encourage additional personal research
Relationship and Health Education	We will continue to explore the Year 6 RHE objectives through dedicated sessions in addition to whole-class discussions based on current topical Big Questions. This half term, children will develop strategies to deal with conflicts if they arise and learn how to recognise pressure from others (including online) and how to not to be pressured in to doing something that is unsafe or uncomfortable.	Previous PSHE units covered throughout your child's time at Trent particularly 'self-respect and personal goals' (Year 5).	You can support your child by discussing lessons or topics.
<b>French</b>	Ms Kenealy will teach a weekly French lesson during the autumn term where children will learn a range of French vocabulary and	Builds upon language and grammar taught in Year 5.	You can support your child by discussing lessons, new vocabulary and topics, and encourage additional personal research or

	grammar through practical activities, games and role play.		practice. Useful website: <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty</a>
<b>Music</b>	Year 6 will have weekly music lessons taught by Mr. Rollo. Year 6 will learn how to successfully select musical ideas to represent a scene or a story. They will use both percussion and tuned instruments		You can support your child by discussing lessons or topics and encourage additional personal research or practice

## PE

Year 6 will have PE on Mondays and Friday. Children need to wear full Trent PE kit to school on these days and no change of uniform is needed. We recommend that children wear their outdoor PE kits (green jogging bottoms, Trent PE top, green jumper). We ask that your child wears either black or white trainers. We recommend providing your child with a spare pair of plimsolls for them to keep in school in case they need to change their shoes during the school day due to the weather.

## Homework

Homework will be set on Atom Learning: <https://atomlearning.com/>

- \*A piece of Maths
- \*A piece of English
- \*A piece of comprehension

\*Spelling practice

I will also set some project work where appropriate for future lessons and learning.

Homework is due in by Wednesday. Please encourage your child to get into the routine of 'handing in' their homework on time. If your child needs any help regarding their homework, they must come and see us before the Wednesday deadline so we can support them.

## Reading

Please make sure your child reads for at least 20 minutes every night. Your child will have a reading record journal which should be signed each day by an adult at home. These will be checked daily and signed by a member of staff to acknowledge your child's commitment to their reading.

### Equipment

Thank you for purchasing the school pencil case containing the equipment your child will need for this year. The items your Year 6 child will need are: a clear pencil case, a pencil, a rigid 30cm ruler, a sharpener, a glue stick, a whiteboard pen, purple pen, yellow highlighter and a whiteboard rubber. This can all be purchased from School Money. Throughout the school year your child may need some items in their pencil case replacing. Please check with your child on a regular basis if they need any new items. We would be grateful if you could support us in this. As part of my reward system in the classroom, children will be rewarded for having complete equipment.

Please provide your child with a clearly labelled water bottle every day and a healthy snack in a clearly labelled pot if appropriate.

### Wet Play

Wet play will take place indoors with a break-time or lunch-time supervisor or the classroom teacher.

### Behaviour Policy

The Behaviour Policy has been clearly explained to all the children across the school. They understand the standard of behaviour expected of them and are responding positively. In Year 6, we will be encouraging and recognising positive behaviour by rewarding children who try incredibly hard in a variety of ways. We use the traffic light system of green, amber and red. Children who are working extremely hard will be rewarded with classroom dojos.

### Home Time

If anyone else is collecting your child, please do either let us know in the morning or call the School Office. If we have not been told that anyone else is collecting your child, we will not let them go at the end of the day even if it is with a parent in the class. Children who have been given written permission from an adult, in year 6, are allowed to go home by themselves.

**Year 6 team: Mr. Smith, Mrs. Kenealy and Ms. Dancel**Important Dates:

**Classroom assembly (and book share): Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

**School trip to Southgate Secondary School to watch "Matilda The Musical": 11<sup>th</sup> January.**



