



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 6! We are really looking forward to working with you and your child this academic year. This half term our topic will have a musical/geographical focus. The children will learn about the unique country of Mexico, with its towering temples and stunning landscapes, as well as pulsing rhythms and fun-packed festivals. There will be opportunities to concoct delicious Mexican meals and discover the mysterious world of the Ancient Maya civilisation. It should be a fun-packed half term!

- **Reading books** should be brought into school **every day**. Please read with your child or encourage your child to read independently if they prefer. We aim to change books weekly and now have a specific library time on a Friday afternoon. Due to the current guidelines, when a child returns a book to school, it will remain in a lidded box for a quarantine period of 72 hours before being put back into the library.
- Your child will come to school in their PE kit on the days that they have PE. For both Year 6 classes this will be on a Monday and a Thursday. Please ensure that they have appropriate clothing as they do go out in all weathers (shorts, tracksuit bottoms, jumper, t-shirt, trainers and socks). **All items of uniform and PE kit must be named. Children are not allowed to wear jewellery at school.** Furthermore, we also have an allocated time for Forest School, and for both Year 6 classes, this will be a Friday afternoon. Please ensure that your child brings in a change of footwear which is suitable for the forest school environment. They will also need a waterproof coat during the colder months.
- This year the children will have a locker for their personal belongings i.e. bags and coats. The lockers will be numbered and your child will be allocated a number so that they know which locker to use. They will still have a drawer in the classroom but we ask that the children **do not** bring pencil cases to school please as they are provided for them due to current Covid guidance.

For the duration of the Autumn Term, we have Mrs Hurst joining us in Year 6. She will be teaching in 6LG as part of her teacher training qualification with Discovery Schools Academy Trust. Mrs. Hurst will be planning teaching and learning opportunities with us and will support the learning of groups as well as whole-class teaching throughout the school day.

### English

#### Narrative - Description

These lessons will be based on a Mexican rainforest setting. The children will be looking at a range of visual stimuli to enable them to write their own description of the Mexican rainforest.

#### Myths and Legends - Narrative

There is an ancient Maya legend of the Dwarf of Uxmal; the children will learn about the legend, produce comic strip formats, and then write a simplified narrative for a u=younger audience. The children will share their narratives with younger children in school.

#### Discussion

The children will focus on the topic of deforestation and will participate in a class debate about this. They will write a balanced argument and will then decide, using their research, whether they are 'for' or 'against' deforestation and justify their opinions with evidence.

## Maths

### Arithmetic

Solve mental calculations which involve multiple operations.

Number and Place Value	Addition and Subtraction	Multiplication and Division
<p>Read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10,000,000 and determine the value of each digit.</p> <p>Round any whole number to a required degree of accuracy.</p> <p>Use negative numbers in context, and calculate intervals across zero.</p> <p>Solve number and practical problems that involve all of the above.</p>	<p>Solve addition and subtraction multi step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why.</p> <p>Perform mental calculations, including with mixed operations and large numbers.</p> <p>Identify common factors, common multiples and prime numbers.</p>	<p>Multiply multi-digit number up to 4 digits by a 2-digit number using the formal written method of long multiplication.</p> <p>Divide numbers up to 4 digits by a 2-digit whole number using the formal written method of long division, and interpret remainders as whole number remainders, fractions, or by rounding as appropriate for the context.</p> <p>Divide numbers up to 4 digits by a 2-digit number using the formal written method of short division, interpreting remainders according to the context.</p>

Computing	Digital Presentations	The children will learn how to use the presentation program – Prezi. They will spend time using the internet and Prezi to create a presentation about Mexico.
Science	Animals Including Humans	<p>The children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function,</li> <li>identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood.</li> </ul>
RE	What matters most to Christians and Humanists?	The focus enables pupils to learn in depth from Christianity and from Humanism, a non-religious way of life. If it is pupils' first encounter with Humanism, then teaching will need to secure their understanding of what a non-religious way of life means, both similar to and different from Christianity.
Music	Mexican Music	The children will listen to different examples of Maya music and learn some of the traditional Mexican songs using Spanish lyrics where possible.
PE	Rugby (6KE) Handball (6LC)	In these sessions the children will master how to use throwing, kicking and catching skills. They will use their skills individually, with a partner and in a team setting.
Art	Maya Art and Mexican Weaving	During these lessons the children will learn how to make 'Ojo de Dios' using weaving techniques. They will also create Maya art drawings and paintings.
D&T	Food of Mexico	The children will learn about the traditional food of Mexico and then they will design and make a traditional meal.

Things that you could do at home:

Which part of Mexico would you prefer to live in

- and why? Write down your ideas and share them with the class.
- Find out about the Maya hieroglyphs and symbols. Can you write your name or a short message to a friend?
- Design and build your own Maya temple using junk materials.
- In Mexico, the most common language is Spanish. Can you find out how to say some phrases in Spanish?

Here are a few websites that may help to support your child's learning during this half term.

**Maths**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>

Number, Place Value, Four Operations, Fractions, Geometry, Handling Data

**English**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>

Reading, Writing and Grammar

**Science**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcyycdm>

Mrs Ellis, Mrs Hickinbottom, Miss Cackowska (Miss Ci), Mrs Hurst, Mrs Batson, Mrs Brown, Mrs Porter and Mrs Wynder  
Year 6 Team