



ELTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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“LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU”

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Year 6 2024/25 – Curriculum and Classroom Information

Dear parents, carers and children,

Our ‘Big Question’ for the autumn term is entitled ‘What Does it Mean to be Powerful?’ and this will be explored through the concepts of democracy, responsibility and wealth. Our curriculum focus will be upon history and we will be using both primary and secondary sources to explore and gain a historical perspective and make connections between local, national, European and world history. During the first half-term we will be examining the cultural, economic, geographical, political and military history of the events of WWI. Then, after half-term, we will concentrate upon WWII: a timeline of the major events and the life of an evacuee.

Our class reading this autumn will focus upon historical fiction and we will be using Michael Morpugo’s ‘War Horse’ to support our understanding of WWI. This will be followed by the excellent ‘Letters from the Lighthouse’ by Emma Carroll for our WWII work. All children will be supplied with their own copies of the text to support their work, both at school and at home. At times, I may be set homework reading tasks to complement our classroom learning.

Our class library consists of ‘50 books to try to read by the end of year 6.’ These high-quality texts will give all children the opportunity to read for pleasure at home whilst providing the necessary challenge to achieve the rigorous demands required of the Year 6 reading curriculum. There is one really clear predictor of whether a child will do well in school and that is if they are a reader of their own volition. Therefore, it becomes imperative that all children regularly read at home and all the class will shortly bring their first book home to enjoy.

The mathematics in year six will be taught using the mastery approach where all children will gain a deep understanding of the content to allow them to become fluent, reason mathematically and to solve increasingly complex problems. I believe that all children are capable of understanding and doing mathematics, given sufficient time. Children are neither ‘born with the maths gene’ nor ‘just no good at maths’. With good teaching, appropriate resources, effort and a ‘can do’ attitude all children can achieve in and enjoy mathematics - the key ideas and building blocks are important for everyone. With this in mind, the biggest stumbling block for previous cohorts has been when children have arrived in year 6 not able to recall multiplication and their related division facts up to 12 x 12. Multiplication facts are part of an essential underpinning of our mathematics system, like counting, number bonds and place value. If children have this knowledge secure, they are better able to carry out calculations (or parts of calculations) quickly, accurately and with confidence. Leaving the time and energy, particularly this coming year, for the more challenging aspects of a problem or calculation. So, if necessary, please continue to practise these skills regularly and the children can log onto their [Timestables Rockstars](#) account to support their learning. For the ‘rapid graspers’ in the class there will be a plethora of extension tasks available to challenge and deepen understanding.

The science journey through our topic will focus upon materials and states of matter. We will be exploring the properties of different solids, liquids and gases; experimenting with both reversible and irreversible changes. In DT we will be focusing upon understanding seasonality, and knowing

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where and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed to help create nutritious meals whilst on a rationed budget. This unit will climax with our annual 'WW2 Bake Off.' We will also investigate the notion of 'Make Do and Mend.'

In art we will be looking at the work of the wartime artist, Paul Nash. Whilst in music, which will be led by Mrs Arnold, we will be concentrating upon singing and performance. We will also be exploring a different genre of music each week with our 'Songs of the Day.'

We will continue to develop our use of our computer skills across the curriculum and the children will have regular access to their own individual I-pads. Our focus will concentrate upon digital citizenship, being e-safe, networks and binary coding. In RE the children will be researching, reading and reflecting upon the question of why Christians think being a pilgrim is a good analogy for life itself. PE lessons, which will be led by our sports coach, Callum, are timetabled for Wednesday afternoons. Finally, we will be continuing with the teaching of Latin across the school and sessions will be taught weekly.

Extra-curricular activities

I am planning on running a series of educational excursions throughout the year. Westminster Abbey, The Houses of Parliament, Airbus Space Discovery Centre and Pizza Express are already booked. Hopefully, further opportunities will be added throughout the year.

With a class of only 21, coach travel becomes far too expensive and provides poor value, so we often take the train as this only occurs minimal transportation costs. However, travelling to and from London on public transport requires parents and carers being able to drop children off at Peterborough station. It also requires the class to demonstrate their growing maturity to travel safely and sensibly. If you have any further questions, queries or would like to volunteer to support the class on any trips, then please let me know.

Homework

Year 6 children will receive weekly spelling and maths tasks. Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, they are expected to read widely at home. There will be occasional reading tasks for them to complete. This could consist of a comprehension task or simply an instruction to read an article, poem or chapter of the class book.

I will set homework tasks on the Microsoft Teams platform for the children to complete. Each piece will have a 'turn in' date for the work to be completed by. It is an expectation that ALL complete the work. This is good practise for the demands of secondary school and life in general. Paper-based homework will also be available for those who request that option. Homework will be set on a Friday and the 'turn in' date will be the following Thursday.

There will also be a homework project as part of our 'Homework Matters' initiative, where the children will have the opportunity to share their work later in the term at our 'Showcase' event on Thursday December 12th.

Stationery

To keep the classroom as neat and tidy as possible the children will be allowed to keep their school-supplied stationery in their own small pencil cases. These must be sensible in size and design and there is no requirement to purchase any items to fill them with as they will be supplied by the school. I do have some pencil cases available for those that do not wish to provide their own.

Keeping in contact

As you know, at Elton, we operate an open-door policy and if you want to speak to me about anything then you can either catch me before or after school. However, by far the easiest way to contact me is by email: ashaw@elton.cambs.sch.uk I will endeavour to respond ASAP,

However, please remember this is a work email account and I do have a young family and life outside of 'Elton.' If you would prefer a one-to-one meeting then please contact me and I will see what can be arranged.

Thus far, the children have settled in really well and have been enthusiastic and keen to learn. As I regularly tell them, the amount and standard of work and the challenges of Year 6 curriculum can be difficult at times. However, as I also say, if they give 100% to everything they do and then no one can ask any more of them. I will set the bar high and have incredibly high expectations for ALL. So far, they have done themselves proud.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to working with you all.

Mr Shaw