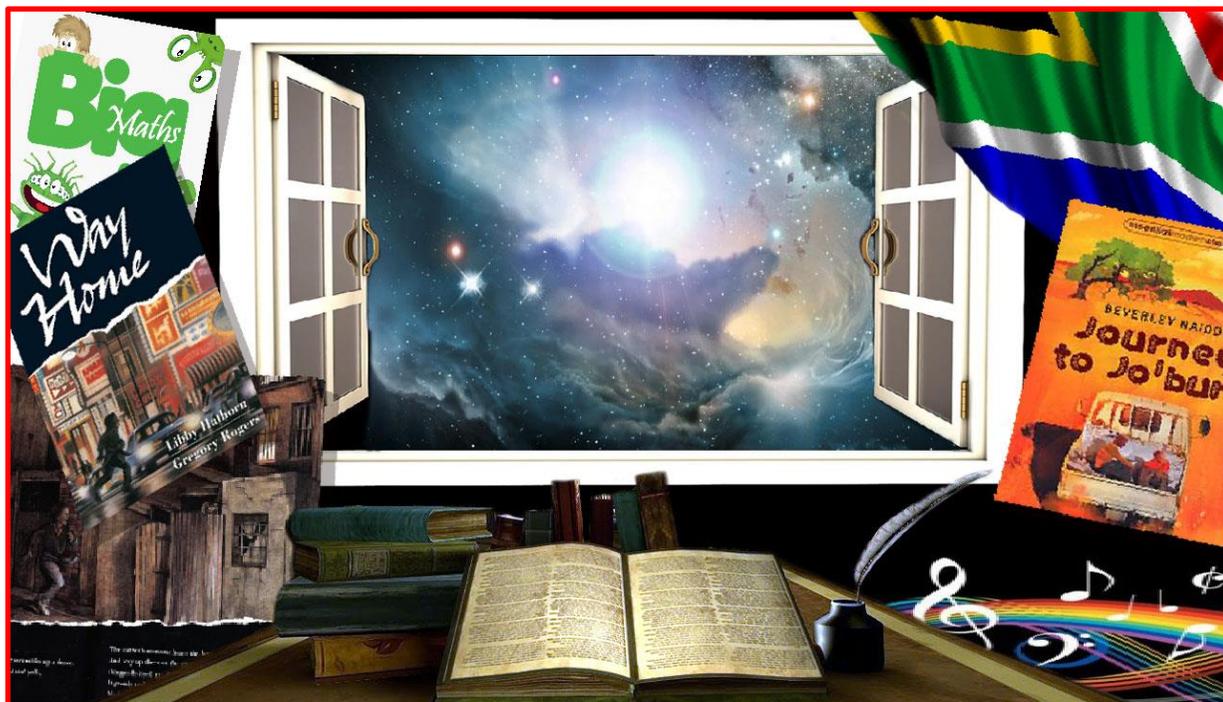


## Year 6

### September – October 2015

The golden learning habits of a successful Year 6 child at St Paul's School are:

- Curiosity
- Independence
- Communication
- Resilience
- Perseverance
- Being a social navigator
- Integrity



### ENGLISH

A lot of English learning will be in the context of the books 'Way Home' (L Hathorn & G Rogers) and 'Journey to Jo'burg' (B Naidoo). The first is a short story to develop descriptive, atmospheric narrative writing; the second is a novel set in South Africa which raises many issues...

#### Reading

Comprehension is developed in a variety of ways, including group reading, paired reading, whole-class discussion and independent work. The children are expected to be independently using and managing their individual reading books and to be talking to you about their reading.

#### Writing

BASIC SKILLS are at the heart of absolutely EVERY piece of writing, whatever the subject. The correct spelling of common words, accurate use of capital letters and full stops are all automatically expected throughout Key Stage 2, not just Year 6, and most children should already be confident about using apostrophes, particularly for contractions.

In Year 6 the children will be starting to think about adding more variety to sentence structures and particularly the way sentences and paragraphs are opened. The use of commas to separate clauses will be explored further so that it becomes more automatic.

Grammar and spelling work will include revision of word classes from previous years; changing verbs into nouns; homophones; and confidently switching between formal and informal English, depending on the audience.

Longer pieces of writing are planned, drafted and revised so that the children have the opportunity to make improvements to their work. In Year 6 a daily 'SPAG bite' (Spelling Punctuation and Grammar) keeps those basic skills on the boil!

## MATHS

Year 6 Maths is very much about applying previously learned facts and avoiding making wild guesses! Just as basic skills in spelling, grammar and punctuation are reinforced daily, we also have daily 'CLIC training' to sharpen up those number facts and mental calculation skills. CLIC simply stands for Counting (ordering complex numbers, including decimals and numbers up to 10,000,000; rounding to the nearest integer, nearest hundred, thousand and ten thousand; and knowing the value of each digit in numbers with up to 3 decimal places); 'Learn its' are the number facts the children should just know off by heart, such as tables up to 12x12, knowing the number of cm in a metre etc.; 'It's nothing new' is about using applying the 'learn its' to solve problems, e.g. using  $4 \times 3 = 12$  to very quickly calculate  $120 \div 3$ ; and Calculation is about practising both mental and written methods of adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. 'Wider maths' includes recognising the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes, the interpretation of graphs and charts, measurement (including area and perimeter of rectangles and right-angled triangles), using factors to simplify fractions and work out equivalent fractions and percentages.

**SCIENCE: Space and forces** Our first Science topic of the year is a physics one and will take us beyond Earth's atmosphere to explore the relationship between our planet, the Sun and the Moon and how they move in connection with each other. Practical work will include investigating sunlight and shadows; also how forces can be influenced by changing variables.

**RE/PSHE: How does a Christian follow Jesus?** – What exactly are Christian values and how do they apply to day-to-day situations?

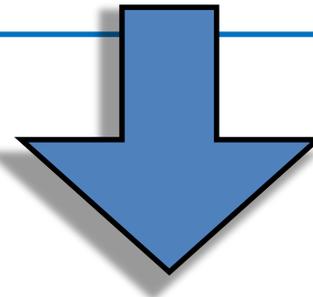
**GEOGRAPHY: South Africa** - An introduction to the country our classroom is named after. Human and physical features will be largely learned through the context of the book we'll study in English, 'Journey to Jo'burg'.

**COMPUTING** - E-safety; i-movie trailers, which involve editing and incorporating own video footage.

**ART** – 2D and 3D work inspired by South African art and imagery linked to our Geography and English learning.

**MUSIC** – Mrs Brown will getting the children prepared for our exciting 'Young Voices' concert in January. It seems a long way off, but there is a great deal to learn and practise! Alongside that the children will be involved in music composition as part of their on-going learning.

**PE** – Fitness work and hockey.



## WAYS THAT PARENTS CAN SUPPORT AT HOME

- Year 6 is a busy year and it can be intense but immensely rewarding! Please help your child to be at their very best each and every day by encouraging plenty of early nights!
- Maths homework covering a range of skills and abilities will be set once a week in addition to a weekly spelling list and an on-going expectation that the children will be practising their reading and mental number skills.
- By Year 6 we don't expect many children to read aloud to an adult every day, however every so often it does help. On these occasions please encourage your child to read with fluency and expression and to question any unfamiliar vocabulary. (They will learn lots of new words in class, but there are so many great words to discover and we can't do them all at school.)
- Useful websites to support learning are:

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2) This covers English, Maths and Science.

[www.mathsisfun.com](http://www.mathsisfun.com) Some things on here are more helpful than others – you just need to browse.

[www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) Type 'speed challenge' into the search box for some speedy sums practise!  
(We use this in class a lot but there are lots of other things on the site too.)

[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround) Great for current affairs, which we will often discuss in class, and lots of entertainment news too!