

# St. William of York Catholic Primary School

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**Headteacher:** Mrs Hayley Mayers **Admin Officer:** Mrs Joanne Roper

**Deputy Head:** Ms Zoe Thorn

Friday 12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new school year. I am enjoying getting to know your children and finding out what motivates them; Year 6 is an exciting, fast-paced year with lots of challenge but also lots of fun. Ms Murphy will be in class each morning to further support the children in their learning and Mrs Oakley will provide cover for me on Tuesday afternoons. This term's topics are Brilliant Benin and The Future is Wild. Please look at the Topic Map which I have attached, for more information on these and other areas of the curriculum.

In order to make good progress in every subject, children are expected to read at home for at least 20 minutes every day. They will have the opportunity to change their reading books whenever they complete a book, which should be in their book bag every day along with their reading records. Please do take the time to talk to your child about the book they are reading and ask them questions or get them to read some aloud to you – it really does help to strengthen their understanding and confidence. They are also expected to complete their reading record three times a week. Mathematics and Spellings are set on Friday but, in addition, Year 6 have two workbooks and should complete 1 test (A, B & C) per week. This may seem like a lot, but it does well to get children used to setting a regular time for a little additional work every day, as a forerunner to the expectations in Year 7 and beyond. So, to recap:

Monday: Mental Arithmetic Book - homework is due.

Thursday: English Skills Book - homework is due.

Friday: Reading Journals are shared and the weekly spelling test is taken and new spellings given.

As per last year, the children will have PE lessons on Monday and Thursday afternoons and so they must ensure that their full PE kit is in school on those days. Children must be able to remove earrings prior to PE.

I hope to see many of you at my Meet the Teacher sessions on Wednesday 17th (3:30-4:30), and especially at our Welcome Assembly (2:30pm) and BBQ (5-7pm), both on Friday 19th September. We have scheduled parents' meetings on 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October to discuss your child's progress and targets, however, if you have urgent queries about any aspect of your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office or directly at [swebster@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:swebster@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Samantha Webster  
St William of York

## English

In connection with our history topic, we will read 'The Children of Benin' during the first half of the term. In Autumn 2, we will read 'The Last Wild', which explores a dystopian future, imaginary worlds and considers our impact on the environment. Children will use texts as stimuli for a range of writing, initially focusing on social and political poetry before moving on to Discussion texts. After half-term we will write Flash fiction narratives (short, pacy stories). In Guided Reading lessons, we will hone our comprehension skills reading high-quality texts: 'The Eye of the Wolf' and 'Floodland'.

## Maths

Our place value unit in the first three weeks introduces children to working with 7digit numbers. Then we are moving on to work through the 4 operations using methods that are accurate, reliable and efficient. Children will practise their problem solving and reasoning skills throughout these units. Although they will continue to use concrete and drawing to develop mastery, they will increasingly be expected to move towards written methods. In the second part of the term, children will focus on fractions, including multiplying. There will also be weekly calculation 'quizzes' in order to ensure fluency in all four operations.

## History

We will begin by learning about the ancient Kingdom of Benin. We will look at reasons for studying an African empire, contrasting it with what else is happening in world history at the time as well as the later impact of Europeans and the British empire. We will make links to other areas of study through art, comparative activities and debate. The children will look critically at the representation of Africa through the eyes of the Western world over the years. In the second half of the term, we will work on mapping, compass skills, extending previous learning about coordinates to locate places on a map, visiting Beckenham Place Park.

## Science

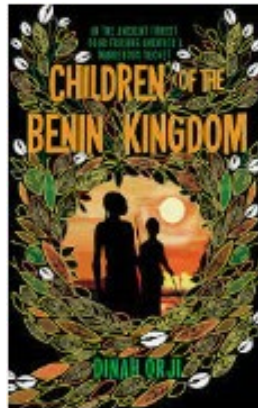
Our first science topic of the year will be Living Things. We will refresh our learning about organisms and explore ways to group and classify plants, animals and micro-organisms. We will find out about Carl Linnaeus, who founded the classification system that we still use today. Following on from this, we will investigate electricity, by constructing and drawing series circuits using symbols, and understand complete and incomplete circuits. We will also plan, investigate & evaluate experiments with voltae.

## Year 6: Autumn Topics

### **Brilliant Benin & The Future is Wild**



Teacher: Samantha Webster



## Computing

This year, Year 6 will be using Chromebooks during their computing lessons. They will begin with coding, using 2Code on Purple Mash to learn to more complex features of coding and functionality. We will move to considering Online Safety after the half-term and finish with a unit on Spreadsheets.

## Art

We will begin with 'Portrait Club': making observational pen drawings of each other using a range of marks and learning to look closely and draw only what we can see, before moving onto self-portraits. We'll consider the way that artists, both contemporary and modern, have represented themselves. Year 6 will make a layered mixed-media self-portrait following the style of graphic artist, Mike Barrett.

## RE

In RE, our first topic is 'Loving' and children will be exploring the concept of family and 'being one'. They will be encouraged to reflect on unconditional love and, knowing that we are loved, make links to scripture and the beliefs of Christians. Later in the term, they will focus on the different life choices people make in their efforts to serve God across the world. Children will explore commitment to God and the vocation of priesthood and the Sacrament of Ordination.

## PE

This term, Year 6 will have outdoor PE lessons on Thursday, and indoor PE on Monday afternoons. They will be working on a group dance on Mondays and honing their hockey skills during their outdoor PE slots.