

What Will My Child Learn In Year 6?

If your child is about to begin Year 6, or is currently working in that year, you might be wondering what they will be learning. This can depend on the school, your child and the time of year however this document is meant as a general guide, covering the sorts of things that your child might be working on.

English

Reading Comprehension

- Children in Year 6 will be encouraged to read a wide range of may listen to and discuss a variety of stories, non-fiction texts, poetry, plays and textbooks in order to understand that texts are structured in different ways and written for different purposes.
- Children may be more exposed to traditional stories, myths, legends and books from other cultures, becoming very clear on the structure and typical features of this style of text.
- They might be encouraged to complete book reviews, giving reasons for their opinions and making comparisons with other texts.
- Regarding poetry, they will, at some point in the next two years work on learning different poems off by heart, ready to perform, showing an understanding of how to perform by using the right tone, volume, timing and intonation so that it can be clearly understood by the audience.
- Children will be reminded to check their reading makes sense, discussing their understanding of the meaning of certain vocabulary as they read.
- They might also be encouraged to ask questions about the text to further develop their understanding of what is going on and draw inference about character actions, speech or motives, providing evidence. Inference involves using the clues in the story or picture to make a good guess. It involves figuring something out which isn't fully explained and draws on a child's existing knowledge of the world.
- Children might be encouraged to make predictions based on what they've already read, summarise key points to show good comprehension and look out for interesting phrases that authors uses.
- In Year 6, children will practise distinguishing between fact and opinion, answer questions by referring back to the text and confidently challenge others in an appropriate manner about their opinions.

Handwriting

- By Year 6, your child may have developed their own handwriting style. They will be expected to write legibly and fluently, in accordance with the school's handwriting policy.
- They may possibly be writing in pen, rather than pencil by this stage and in most cases, should be expected to join all the time.
- They might still need reminding of certain rules such as – never join capital letters to the following letter!

Writing and Spelling

- Your child may specifically learn how to spell words with silent letters e.g solemn and knowledge.
- They may also work on spelling a wider range of homophones (words which sound the same but have different meanings), ensuring they use the correct form based on the context of their writing, for example practise /practice, advice /advise.
- Your child may be encouraged to use dictionaries to check the spellings of words and a thesaurus to further develop the use of vocabulary.
- Children may be taught the differences between informal speech and formal speech, for example 'find out' – informal, 'discover' – formal.
- They might also work on the extension of vocabulary by listing synonyms (words with similar meanings such as small, tiny, miniscule) and antonyms (words with opposite meanings such as good and terrible).
- Regarding sentence writing, your child may be introduced to the passive tense this year. An example of the passive tense would be, 'The children are taught by their teacher' instead of 'The teacher teaches the children'.
- This tense is sometimes described as having its own 'voice'. To explain in further detail, the thing receiving the action (the children) is the subject, and the thing doing the action is left until last.
- The children may also be exposed to subjunctive forms which can make their writing appear very formal, such as 'It is important that the children be happy' as opposed to 'It is important that the children are happy' which we would be more likely to say in everyday English. It isn't used very much in day to day English but it is an important tool for children to have in their Literacy tool kit if writing for a specific audience or in a certain style. It requires the verb in its basic form, e.g 'be' instead of 'are' in the earlier example.
- The class might also be introduced to colons (:), dashes (-) and semi-colons (;).



Writing - Composition

- Planning writing – Your child may be taught how to identify the audience and select the correct style and tone. They might be encouraged to note and develop their ideas and using their reading knowledge to plan interesting characters (if fiction) and settings.
- Drafting and writing – Year 6 Children may practise selecting the correct grammar and vocabulary to match the reading audience and work on including dialogue and linking paragraphs together so that their writing flows nicely.
- Children may be taught to carefully select the correct structure for their text, including any necessary features such as bullet points, headings or captions.
- Evaluate and edit – Children will be encouraged to regularly assess the effectiveness of their own writing and pieces written by others, focusing specifically on punctuation, grammar, vocabulary and spelling.
- Finally, children will be taught how to use intonation when reading their writing out loud and how they could vary the volume and include movement.

Writing - Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation

- In Year 6, your child may work on converting adjectives or nouns into verbs using suffixes such as -ify, -ise and -ate and practise adding prefixes for example de-, mis- and re-.
- Your child may also work on relative clauses, clauses beginning with relative pronouns such as where, which, whose, that and who, for example, 'The boy, who fell and grazed his knee, cried. Children may also be encouraged to include adverbs such as perhaps and surely as well as modal verbs such as will, must or might in order to indicate degrees of possibility.
- This year children in this year group might work on making sure their writing flows nicely and ideas link cohesively, linking ideas across paragraphs using adverbials of time (later, after, before), number (secondly, thirdly) or place (in the distance).
- They may also learn how to use parenthesis (brackets).

Maths

Number - Number and Place Value

- Your child may learn to read, write, compare and order numbers up to 10 million, understanding the value of each digit.
- They might be taught how to round any number, use negative numbers and solve number problems involving the above.

Number - Number Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division

- In Year 6, your child may be taught how to calculate a 4 digit number and two digit number multiplication sum using long multiplication.
- They may also be taught how to find the answer to a sum with similar numbers but using short and long division, interpreting the remainders and possibly rounding them if necessary.
- Children are likely to be taught to quickly recognise common factors, prime numbers and common multiples.
- Regarding mental maths, your child will probably practise mental maths involving different operations within one calculation, and large numbers.
- Finally, children might be faced with solving multi-step problems based on the above, making an initial estimation before starting.

Measurement

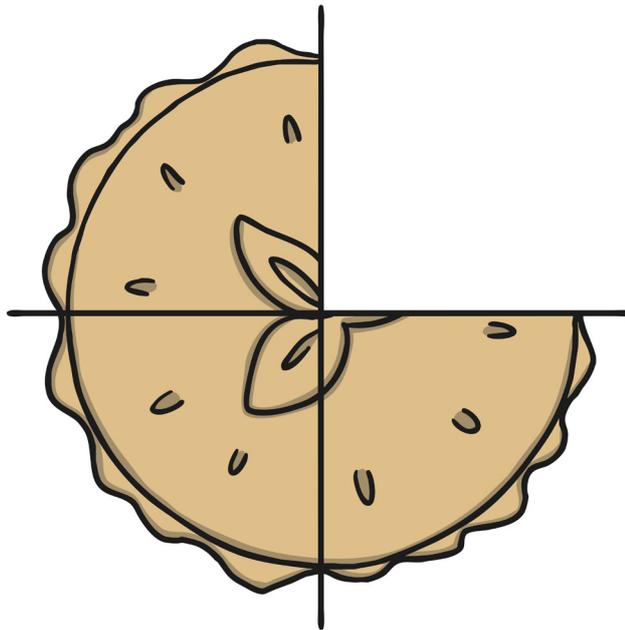
- This year, children may be faced with solving conversion problems.
- They may convert measurements of mass, volume, time and length from smaller units to a larger unit and the other way around, using decimal notation if necessary.
- Year 6 children may learn about how shapes can have the same areas but different perimeters (distance around the shape).
- They might be introduced to formulae to help calculate the area and volume of shapes and finally, estimate, calculate and compare volumes using cm^3 and m^3 .

Geometry - Properties of Shape

- This year, children will probably practise drawing 2D shapes haven been given measurements and angles.
- They will build 3D nets, find unknown angles, label parts of a circle with words such as diameter (the distance from one side to the other), radius (the distance from the centre to the edge) and circumference (the distance all the way around the shape).

Geometry - Position and Direction

- This year children are likely to learn to give the co-ordinates of a position within any of the four quadrants.
- They might also be taught how to draw then translate simple shapes and reflect them in the axis.



Number - Fractions

- In Year 6, children may practise looking for common factors of a number, for example, 1, 2, 4 and 5 are common factors of 20, then apply this knowledge to simplifying fractions, e.g $\frac{2}{8}$ becomes $\frac{1}{4}$ by dividing each number by 2.
- Children might also learn how to compare and order fractions less than 1 whole one.
- They may also learn how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators (lower numbers) and mixed numbers, e.g $1\frac{3}{4}$, multiply proper fractions (fractions where the smaller number is on top and the bigger number at the bottom).
- Your child might also learn how to divide proper fractions by whole numbers, for example $\frac{2}{4}$ divided by 2 = $\frac{1}{4}$.
- Year 6 students may learn that $\frac{2}{9}$ is another way of saying 2 divided by 9 which is 0.222. Regarding decimals, it is likely that children are taught the value of digits in numbers given to three decimal places, also how to multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1000, giving answers up to 3 decimal places.
- Your child might also learn how to solve calculations such as 3.28×6 .
- Finally, your child is likely to be faced with solving word problems relating to the above, which may involve rounding the answer to some degree.
- Children will benefit from being able to recall their knowledge of equivalents between decimals, percentages and fractions, e.g 0.5, 50% and $\frac{1}{2}$.



Ratio and Proportion

- This year, children may be taught how to solve ratio and proportion problems involving calculating percentages, such as 10% of 170 and working out the scale.



Algebra

- They might work on using simple formulae, describe linear number sequences (number patterns which increase or decrease by the same amount), solve missing number problems using algebra, work out numbers which satisfy equations, e.g $c + d = d + c$, could be $2 + 4 = 4 + 2$.



Statistics

- Children might learn how to gather information and construct pie charts and line graphs, calculating the mean (the average – add up all the numbers then divide by however many there are).