



WEEKLY PARENT INFORMATION NEWSLETTER – Year 6

Messages

Thank you very much to our wonderful parents. Without your help and support this year would not have been as successful as it was. The Year 6 team have been extremely impressed with the children we have taught, not just in terms of the academic strength of your children but also with their personal qualities. They have bonded together with each other in a remarkable fashion. And we as staff have been able to enjoy some lovely relationships with the children.

We have thoroughly enjoyed being with them both in and out of school and your assistance has been vital to the success of our many activities. Obviously academic achievement is very important at school but children cannot achieve their full potential without the vital backing you have been able to give from home. Students, teachers and parents working together enable young people to develop into confident capable individuals.

Did you ever hear this story growing up?

A woodcutter strained to saw down a tree. A young man who was watching asked *“What are you doing?”*

“Are you blind?” the woodcutter replied. *“I’m cutting down this tree.”*

The young man was unabashed. *“You look exhausted! Take a break. Sharpen your saw.”*

The woodcutter explained to the young man that he had been sawing for hours and did not have time to take a break.

The young man pushed back... *“If you sharpen the saw, you would cut down the tree much faster.”*

The woodcutter said *“I don’t have time to sharpen the saw. Don’t you see I’m too busy?”*

We wish you all have a wonderful holiday and take time to refresh.

Mr Shaun Rhodes.

Below is a list of websites that have been recommended by the staff of the secondary.



Year Six Summer Holiday Websites & Activities

Maths

<http://www.myimaths.com/>

Username-**bisspuxi**

Password- **reflect**

Students will continue to use this site in the secondary school.

<http://www.geogebra.org/>

GeoGebra is free and multi-platform dynamic mathematics software. It is useful to download a desktop/laptop version, as well as the tablet version (it's great on an iPad from iTunes).

<http://tube.geogebra.org/student/m15554>

Students might like to play around with this link, although we are not expecting them to send anything to us unless they are really keen

<http://www.cimt.plymouth.ac.uk/projects/mepres/book7/book7int.htm#unit1>

Students are also welcome to test themselves on some Maths units of work they might already be familiar with from this link. Each of the links from Unit 1 to 12 are worthwhile looking at, but not compulsory or a requirement if students are not yet familiar with these ideas.

Science

Below is the outline of topics that our Year 7 students will follow from August 2014:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/science/>

The BBC bitesize website gives a good overview of the key stage 3 syllabus.

<http://www.docbrown.info/ks3science.htm>

Docbrown has a long list of quizzes and extra fascinating facts.

<http://lgfl.skool.co.uk/keystage3.aspx?id=63>

Skool has useful activities and information for linking Key Stage 3 Maths and Science.

English

<http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/primary/grammar-quiz/grammar-glossary-page-1.html>

Oxford Grammar Glossary – a reminder of key grammar terms.

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar>

British Council – range of grammar activities and quizzes useful for EAL and First Language Speakers.

<http://www.english-online.org.uk/games/gamezone2.htm>

Gamezone – A series of online interactive grammar games.

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<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/english/>

BBC Bitesize – offers good learning advice and material to begin to explore the key areas of English: Reading, Writing and Speaking & Listening.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/games/>

BBC Bitesize Games – great selection of games that test English skills.

<http://www.eastoftheweb.com/>

Eastoftheweb – excellent short story website which encourages reading and writing. It also has a series of word games.

<http://www.channel4learning.com/support/websites/english.html>

Channel4learning - A series of games and exercises to improve English skills.

<http://www.sporcle.com/games/MissTreeves/englishtechniques>

Sporcle English techniques quiz – this is quite a challenging quiz but if a student wishes to learn more complex language terms they can have a go and try to research the answers online.

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/index>

Youngwriters offers some great glossaries games and challenges on language techniques and poetry.

<http://englishtutorhome2.blogspot.co.uk/p/blog-page.html>

<http://englishtutorhome2.blogspot.com/2013/04/sounds-in-poetry-sibilant-plosive.html>

This is a great teacher led blog which offers guidance on key texts, SPAG, ways to analyse and explanations of the effect of language techniques.

<http://www.howtospell.co.uk/spellingquiz.php>

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/games/sushi-spell>

<http://www.spellzone.com/games/>

UK Spelling quizzes and games.

Art

Below is the outline of topics that our Year 7 students will follow from August 2014:

Term one (Autumn): Expressive Portraits – An investigation into artist who have explored Portraiture as a subject matter

Term two (Spring): Animal Masks – A sculptural project with animals being the inspiration to create a 3D mask.

Term three (Summer): Pointillism – An exploration into pointillism and Still Life as an Art form

Suggested Activities:

- Visit a gallery or place where artwork is a central feature of the space
- Take photos in your surrounding environment of interesting objects or places that inspire you

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- Make a series of sketches and then more focussed and detailed studies of your summer travels
- Experiment with a variety of media to develop your drawing and painting skills

Look at artworks and activities on the following websites

<http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern>

<http://www.npg.org.uk/>

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/11_16/site/art.shtml

<http://www.moma.org/>

Geography

<http://mapzone.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/PagesHomeworkHelp/>

One of the first units that students cover in geography is based on map skills, this site has plenty of activities the students can complete online to develop these further.

<http://www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk/>

In the summer term students study Antarctica and this website has lots of background facts and figures as well as video clips that you can read and watch.

<http://www.triviaplaza.com/geography-world-quizzes/>

This is a very good for place geography quizzes, something we'll be starting with August. There are a whole range of online quizzes for students to enhance their knowledge of places.

Modern Foreign Languages

The school subscribes to this language learning site. Use the beginner section to learn new vocabulary or revise the words you've learnt over the past few years! It's full of games and activities:

www.linguascope.com username: bisspuxi password: shanghai

These websites are completely free and have lots of games to learn new words. They are all subdivided according to topics:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/default.htm> (Great for French and German but not so much for Spanish)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primarylanguages/> (no German section on this one)

<http://digitaldialects.com/> (all languages)

English as a Second Language

These are just a selection of the many available. You just need to Google **ESL for kids** and choose those sites you like. The British Council and BBC sites are the best for quality control.

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/>

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/numbertime/>

<http://www.english-4kids.com/>

The most important thing for ALL to do is read books that are too easy (so students don't get bored with its difficulty) and listen to English whenever possible. You can get easy to read and understand books here and perhaps also look for them on

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www.amazon.com. Make sure you get the right level and an easy one for you. Here are some samples:

<http://www.penguinreaders.com/pr/students/index.html>

The Global Classroom

An innovative, contemporary and distinctive educational programme unique to Nord Anglia Education where all our students can collaborate, inquire, create, innovate and lead. This can be logged into through moodle. Look on the menu for The Studio where there are a series of interesting debates, puzzles and brainteasers to challenge and stretch your abilities:

<http://learning.puxi.nordanglia.com>