Year 6 (Redwood Class) Parent Letter
2026-2027

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a great summer holiday. Please read the information in the letter below which you may find useful for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Horton Kirby CE Primary School is incredibly passionate about ensuring that our children have opportunities to develop their curiosity through an aspirational and diverse curriculum which has been developed and adapted to meet the needs of all of our children and community. We provide a rich, broad and balanced curriculum that celebrates individuality, diversity and builds procedural knowledge to nurture talent and prepare children for the challenges and rewards of life and the wider world. Our school values of Compassion, Courage, Love, Perseverance, Respect and Responsibility are embedded into our curriculum.

Within your 2026-2027 school year online pack that will be sent out via Arbor / Seesaw you will find:

- A key dates letter: A list of the main key dates for the 2026-2027 academic year. The dates and times listed are subject to change and some dates may only be relevant for specific year groups. If any other events or school trips are organised during the course of the school year then you will be informed of these via a letter, Arbor or SeeSaw.

- A long-term plan: This outlines the learning that will take place for your child within every subject for each term across the academic year.

- A medium-term plan (for term 1): This gives a more detailed overview of the lessons that will take place each week for every subject. A medium-term plan will be sent out and posted on Seesaw at the start of each term so that you and your child know exactly what they will be learning about.

- Class timetable: A timetable showing when each subject will be taught throughout the week. Some subjects will be taught every other term. In the case of special events at school, experiences or opportunities for cultural capital (learning opportunities which link to the children's learning) children will be off timetable.

- A Parent SeeSaw QR Code: Seesaw is the main way that I will communicate messages and reminders to parents. Please can **ALL** parents sign up to Redwood class as soon as possible by scanning the QR code and following the steps. SeeSaw is also a great opportunity for children to share their work and learning with you. Once you have signed up, if you do have any questions or need to inform me of anything you can do so by sending a message via SeeSaw. I will aim to reply to you between 8.30-18.00 Monday-Friday. Alternatively, feel free speak to me on the playground after school if needed.

PE Days:

Redwood class's PE lessons will take place on a Friday afternoon. On these days could children please come to school wearing their full PE / Games kit for the day. Children wearing the correct PE kit has greatly improved in recent times and is just as important as wearing the correct school uniform – thank you. To ensure that this continues, children's kit should include:

- A plain t-shirt corresponding to your child's house group colour (either blue, red, green or yellow).
- Plain black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms.
- Trainers.
- A lightweight waterproof top, jacket (weather dependant).
- A plain black jumper or hoody (weather dependant).

If children are wearing the incorrect PE kit a 'correct' school uniform slip may be sent home. If your child is unable to participate or please write a note for that day or send a message via SeeSaw. If this is a long-term reason, a doctor's note would be useful.

Swimming:

Redwood class's swimming sessions will take place in term 1 & 2 on a Monday afternoon at Whiteoak leisure centre on the following dates:

- **Monday 7th September**
- **Monday 14th September**
- **Monday 21st September**
- **Monday 28th September**
- **Monday 5th October**
- **Monday 12th October**
- **Monday 19th October**
- **Monday 9th November**
- **Monday 16th November**

Swimming kit will be required on these dates and should be brought in a bag. Swimming kit should include: a swimming costume / shorts, a towel, goggles (optional). Children may bring a hairbrush (if needed). Deodorant / hair products **MUST NOT** be brought in with their kit. If year 6 children are unable to swim 25 metres unaided by the end of these sessions, they may be asked to attend further sessions with other classes – this would be funded by the school.

Cultural capital opportunities (trips):

Redwood class will have the opportunity to take part in some of the following during their time in year 6, these opportunities link to the Year 6 Horton Kirby curriculum:

- Bank of England Trip (Term 1 History & Maths)
- Cinema (Film Music) Trip (Term 1 Music)
- Playground Structures Investigation (Term 2 Design & Technology – Darenth Heathside)

- Fieldwork Opportunities (Terms 2, 4, 6 Geography)
- World War 2 Trip (Term 3 History - WW2)
- Shakespeare's Globe Theatre Workshop & Tour (Term 3-4 English - Macbeth)
- Apple Store Bluewater Visit (Term 4 Computing – Dynamic Spreadsheets)
- Hindu Temple Visit (Term 5 RE)
- Bowles Residential (Term 6 PE – Outdoor Adventurous Activities)
- Gala Dinner Evening (Term 6 Design & Technology) TBC
- Safety in Action (Term 6 PSHE)
- Rochester Cathedral Visit (Term 6 RE - Trust Leavers Service)

*Children will also a range of other experiences throughout the year – a full list can be found on the school website: **www.hortonkirby.kent.sch.uk/**

Homework:

Reading:

Throughout the year, children should choose **reading books** within their accelerated reader ZPD band that they will be reading both in school and at home. This book can be one from school or one that they have at home and would like to read (ideally a book that is on the Accelerated reader). This can be checked on: https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx . Reading books should come home on a daily basis and children should read each night. As a school, we are always trying to improve parental engagement with reading, therefore where and when possible, we would encourage you to hear your child read aloud. If you do get the chance to do this with your child then please sign and date their reading record with the page that they have read up to each time that they have read.

When reading with your child, please ask questions about the text and discuss vocabulary with them - this is very useful as is encouraging your child to record new vocabulary with the meaning so that they can use this within their own writing where possible.

Once your child has finished a reading book they should take an 'accelerated reader' quiz about the book they have just read. If your child scores 100% on the quiz their name will go onto the 100% board and they will have the chance of winning a prize at the end of the term. If children are reading larger books, it may be a case that it takes them the entire term to read their book which is fine. All children in year 6 should be aiming to read a minimum of 1 large book per term or at least 3-4 medium sized / smaller books. *Children can take AR quizzes at home by following the following link and using their normal AR login details:* https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/2240683

Online Reading, SPAG & Maths Homework on Classroom Secrets Kids:

As part of our continued effort to become a more environmentally friendly school, we are aiming to go as paperless as possible. With this in mind, Year 6 homework will continue to be set online using the Classroom Secrets Kids platform. This platform supports our curriculum and will provide a consistent and engaging way for children to complete tasks which they can work through at their own pace which suits them.

Reading, SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Maths homework tasks will be set online once it has been covered in class. Teachers will check that the work has been done, and to help motivate the children, they will be awarded house points for each subject task completed.

Children's logins for Classroom Secrets Kids, as well as their logins for Spelling Shed and Times Tables Rockstars, have been stuck inside their reading diaries for easy access.

Spellings: Spellings will be set each Friday on 'Spelling Shed' and will expire 6 days later. Children should log in using their given username and password (these are stuck into their reading diaries) and practise their spellings at least 5 times each week. They will be quizzed on a selection of these spellings as a dictation task every week.

Times Tables Rockstars*:* Children must complete a minimum of 5 Studio games on TTRS each week. These will also be set every Friday and expire after 6 days.

***Please note:** *We recommend that children complete all homework tasks in preparation for getting used to being set homework at secondary school. Children who do not complete their homework tasks will not be rewarded with house points. Occasionally, unfinished work from lessons may be sent home for completion.*

Other information:

- Children do not need to bring pencil cases into school – all equipment that the children need will be provided in school.
- Year 6 children walking to or from school are allowed to bring in mobile phones on the days that they are walking. They **MUST** be kept in the office throughout the day.
- Could all children please make sure that they bring a water bottle in with them each day.
- When the weather is wet/cold, could all children please make sure that they have a warm, waterproof coat.

I hope that you have found these notes helpful but please do not hesitate to speak to me should you have any questions or concerns. Before school is always an extremely busy time and I would therefore appreciate questions to be raised after school or via SeeSaw where possible.

Kind regards,

Mr Millbank