



Year 6 - Autumn Term 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome your child to Year 6, their final year at Whitehall. This year will be both challenging and very rewarding. The Autumn Term is going to be very busy and we hope that your child's term will be both interesting and enjoyable.

English

What an exciting term we have planned in terms of your child's English lessons! Your child will be reading several novels, enabling them to investigate a variety of authors' writing styles, and we will use these as a focal point to support your child in writing their own fiction and non-fiction pieces.



We will begin with the novel, 'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom' by Louis Sachar and then move onto, 'The Unforgotten Coat' by Frank Cottrell Boyce. We will also study the text, 'Rose Blanche' by Ian Mc Ewan and we will write a newspaper article about an evening of bombing during the Blitz, which is linked to the pupils' history study this term. If you would like to read some alternative texts based around our English units, so as not to spoil the fun of finding out about the characters and plots within the classroom, your child could read 'Holes', 'Small Steps' or 'Fuzzy Mud' by Louis Sachar or 'Cosmic', 'Framed' or 'Desirable' by Frank Cottrell Boyce.

Your child will also be completing weekly spelling lessons and weekly grammar lessons, which will allow them to develop their vocabulary, grammar and knowledge on sentence types and structures that they will then be encouraged to use in their daily written work.

As well as this, your child will continue to have daily guided reading lessons and Reading Plus sessions this year which will improve their reading fluency, comprehension skills and ignite a passion for reading.

Please remember that your child must read every night for at least 20 minutes; this reading should be recorded in your child's planner as this is checked every day at school.

Mathematics

This term, we will cover all areas of mathematics through recapping methods and strategies and then providing opportunities for the children to apply these skills within problem solving tasks, mathematical investigations and puzzles. This will enable your child to refine and improve their skills as well as to develop them into independent learners in their preparation for secondary school.

Your child will also have weekly mental mathematics tests to improve and refine their mental calculation's skills. It is essential that your child practises the areas of mental mathematics that they are weaker at and that have been identified by their teacher. 'Mathletics' is an excellent website for the children to use in order to practise their mental mathematics skills. We will also be continuing to use the 'Times Tables Rockstars' website to support and encourage the children with their times tables. During the week, the children will be practising their knowledge and speed in answering questions. There will be a weekly focus for the children to challenge themselves.



Science

The BBC website provides excellent background reading and interactive activities for your child's learning in science. The topics that we will be covering during this term are 'Electricity' and 'Light'. These topics are very hands-on and your child will be completing and devising many experiments to gain first-hand observations and knowledge. We will focus on scientific enquiry skills and refine children's ability to conduct experiments and interpret the results accurately.

Foundation Lessons

Our main topic of work for this term is history based called, **To Final Victory**. This is a creative curriculum topic, giving the children the opportunity to study each of the foundation subjects around a theme. The children will look at the causes of WW2 and the key events during this time including, The Battle of Britain and The Blitz. Alongside their history learning, the children will participate in a 'Make Do and Mend' DT project and investigate the work of Henry Moore and use this to inspire their own art pieces. During their RE learning, the children will cover Islam and Sikhism, as well as taking part in weekly computing, music, PE, PSHE and French lessons.

Homework

Year 6 pupils are expected to complete the following homework each week:

- Read daily for at least 20 minutes and have planners signed, this includes at the weekend.
- Learn spellings that will be given on a Monday and tested on a Friday (these are listed below on this page).
- Times tables and number facts to be practised regularly at home for our weekly mental arithmetic test
- Weekly CGP Books: assigned Grammar, Punctuation and spelling task, Comprehension task and Mathematics task (these are listed on the website).
- Regularly use of Times Table Rockstars.
- Complete your weekly allocated Reading Plus tasks (if you do not complete your six assigned tasks whilst at school each week).
- There are also extension activities available on this page if you wish to complete them (this is optional).

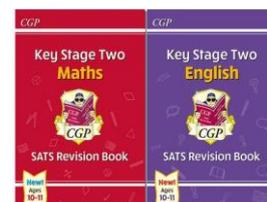
SATs



During the Summer Term, your child will take part in the SATs. These tests will fall within the week commencing **Monday 11th May 2026**. Please do not book family holidays or arrange other appointments during this week as children cannot take these tests at any other time. In fact, all absences, other than for illness, will only be authorised in very exceptional circumstances. We hope that all children achieve the national age-related expectation for KS2.

Revision Guides

In preparation for SATs, we will be selling revision guides at a cost of £3.00 each. The BBC websites also provide excellent background reading for their learning in science; the main topic during this term being light and electricity.



Secondary School Applications

During the Autumn Term, we will be communicating important information with you about the procedures for applying to secondary school. This is because your child will be transferring to secondary school in September 2026 and the closing date for secondary school applications will be 31st October 2025. More detailed information about the application process will be available from mid-August on this website: <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions> if you wish to look into this before our communications with you.

Whitehall Week

During the Summer Term, Year 6 children will participate in Whitehall Week during the week beginning 8th June 2026. Whitehall Week is an action-packed week full of fun activities based at school, with some day trips. These organised events are to enable the children to come together and celebrate their time at Whitehall Junior with one another. Please await further information in regards to the activities planned and costs of this adventure week.

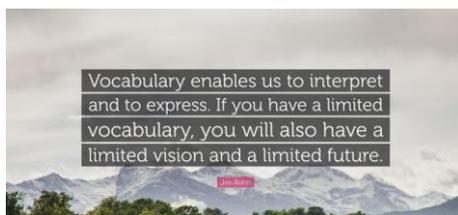
Knowledge Mats



To increase your awareness of the academic vocabulary linked to the topics that your child will be learning this term, you will find knowledge mats on the school website within the Year 6 page. Do take the time with your child to look through these knowledge mats as this will support the learning that takes place inside the classroom.

Vocabulary

We are encouraging families to exploit talk and vocabulary usage with their children, based on the topics which are being covered in school. Research shows that the more talk and vocabulary children are exposed to, the greater progress and attainment achieved. Therefore, please see below a list of vocabulary which your child will be exposed to this term in their learning (this list is also available on the Year 6 page of our website). We are asking that you support us in the use of these words outside the classroom to deepen your child's understanding of these terms.



SCIENCE - Year 6 Light Vocabulary List 2025

Word	Meaning
reflect	to cast back (light, heat, sound, etc.) from a surface
surface	the outer face, outside, or exterior boundary of a thing; outermost or uppermost layer or area
transparent	having the property of transmitting rays of light through its substance so that bodies situated beyond or behind can be distinctly seen.
translucent	permitting light to pass through but diffusing it so that persons, objects, etc., on the opposite side are not clearly visible:
opaque	not transparent or translucent; impenetrable to light; not allowing light to pass through
shadow	a dark figure or image cast on the ground or some surface by a body intercepting light

SCIENCE - Year 6 Electricity Vocabulary List 2025

Word	Meaning
electricity	energy made available by the flow of electric charge through a conductor
circuit	to go or move around; make the circuit of
switch	a mechanical, electrical, electronic, or optical device for opening or closing a circuit or for diverting energy from one part of a circuit to another
electrons	a unit of charge equal to the charge on one electron
component	a part of a mechanical or electrical system
battery	a combination of two or more <u>cell</u> electrically connected to work together to produce electric energy.
power	to supply with electricity or other means of power

HISTORY – Y6 World War Two Vocabulary List 2025

Word	Meaning
dictator	A ruler who is unconstrained by law
propaganda	Information that is spread for the purpose of promoting some cause
reliable	Worthy of reliance or trust
censorship	Deleting parts of publications or correspondence or theatrical performances
neutral	Not supporting or favouring either side in a war, dispute, or contest
allies	An alliance of nations joining together to fight a common enemy
air raid	An attack by armed planes on a surface target
operation	Activity by a military or naval force (as a manoeuvre or campaign)
Holocaust	An act of mass destruction and loss of life (especially in war or by fire)
Nazi	A German member of Adolf Hitler's political party
patriotism	Love of country and willingness to sacrifice for it
democracy	The political orientation of those who favour government by the people or by their elected representatives
military	The military forces of a nation
threat	Declaration of an intention or a determination to inflict harm on another
surrender	Relinquish possession or control over
treaty	A written agreement between two states or sovereigns
resistance	The action of opposing something that you disapprove or disagree with
rationing	When something is in short supply, like rubber and metal during the Second World War, a government will often institute rationing to save that material, making sure there's enough of it for emergencies. Rationing during the war meant that people had a specific amount of food they could buy each week, and once an item was used up, they had to wait until they got a new ration book to buy more. Ration means "hand out in fixed amounts."
colony	A geographical area politically controlled by a distant country
superpower	A state powerful enough to influence events throughout the world
evacuation	The act of evacuating; leaving a place in an orderly fashion; especially for protection
invasion	The act of invading; the act of an army that invades for conquest or plunder
shelter	A structure that provides privacy and protection from danger
radar	Measuring instrument in which the echo of a pulse of microwave radiation is used to detect and locate distant objects
intelligence	Having the capacity for thought and reason especially to a high degree
campaign	A series of actions advancing a principle or tending toward a particular end
morale	A state of individual psychological well-being based upon a sense of confidence and usefulness and purpose
auxiliary	Someone who acts as an assistant
casualties	Someone injured or killed or captured or missing in a military engagement
civilians	Associated with civil life or performed by persons who are not active members of the military

We are very much looking forward to this term and we hope that your children are too. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress or welfare, please do not hesitate to contact us via email: year6@whitehalljunior.org and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Costa, Miss Brown, Mrs McCarthy, Miss Treanor, Miss Groves and Miss Shaw

Year 6 Class teachers

September 2025