



Year 6 - Spring Term 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all had a good break and that your child is ready for a fun and exciting term ahead. This term promises to be as productive and enjoyable as ever. The aim of this newsletter is to inform you of what we will look to cover during the Spring Term.

English

What an exciting term we have planned in terms of your child's English lessons! Your child will be reading several texts, 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 be reading: 'Clockwork', by Phillip Pullman, 'Gone Away' by Lou Kuenzler and 'Macbeth' by Shakespeare (Please do not read these at home yet!). If you would like to read some alternative text based around our English units of study, you could read 'Tom's Midnight Garden' by Philippa Pearce, 'Holes' by Louis Sachar and also 'Stargirl' by Jerry Spinelli.

Your child will also be completing daily word and sentence level tasks, which will allow them to develop their vocabulary, grammar and knowledge on sentence types and structures which 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 term, 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

In mathematics lessons, the children will continue developing their mathematics skills and learning how to apply these skills to a variety of fun problem-solving tasks. It is therefore incredibly helpful if you can get your children involved in mathematics in real-life situations outside of school. Encourage them to total up shopping bills, calculate change and to continue to work on mental mathematics skills, for example, quick recall of multiplication facts.

Through the use of our PUMA assessment and Mock SATs, your child's mathematics teacher will be focusing on areas your child is finding challenging. It is also useful for you to work through any assessments that are sent home with your child.

Your child will also have weekly mental mathematics tests to improve and refine their mental calculations. 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 and do not forget to remind your children of the useful mathematics resources within their planners. We will also be continuing to use the 'Times Tables Rock Stars' 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 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/scienceandenvironment> provides excellent background reading and interactive activities for your child's learning in Science. The topics that we will be covering during this term will be 'Evolution and Inheritance' and 'Living Things and their Habitats'. 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

In history this term, our main topic of work is the **Mayan Civilisation** and the children will compare this to their knowledge on Ancient Egypt and early Britain as well as making geographical links using their geography knowledge and skills. Alongside this history and geography learning, the children will participate in a 'Mayan artefact' mouldable material DT project and investigate the work of Van de Rohe, an architect of early Mayan civilisation, and use his work to inspire their own art pieces by creating charcoal and pastel drawings of Mayan architecture. During their RE learning, the children will cover Sikhism, Buddhism and Christianity, 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 available on the Year 6 page of the website).
- 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 available on the Year 6 page of the website)
- Regularly use of Times Table Rock Star and Spelling Shed.
- 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 the Year 6 page of our website if you wish to complete them (this is optional).

SATs

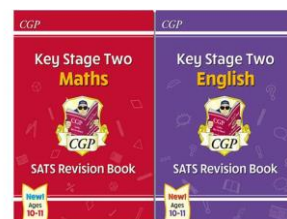


KS2.

The Spring Term is a very busy term as we continue to prepare the children for their SATs tests and their transition to secondary school. SATs test week is **Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2026**. It is essential that the children are at school leading up to the tests so that they can be adequately prepared. 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

Revision Guides

If you have not done so already and you would like to purchase our revision guides, we are still selling all four revision guides at a cost of £3.00 each. The BBC websites also provide excellent background reading for their learning in Science; the main topics during this term being 'Evolution and Inheritance' and 'Living Things and their Habitats'.



Secondary School Applications - Offer Day

You will receive an email on the evening of **Monday 2nd March 2026** with the outcome of your secondary school application. You will then be required to log into your eAdmissions account to accept or decline your offer by **Monday 16th March 2026**.


Important: You must accept the offer to secure the school place. If you do not accept by the **16th March 2026**, the offer may be withdrawn.

Whitehall Week

All Year 6 children will participate in Whitehall Week during the week beginning **Monday 8th June 2026**. Whitehall Week is an action-packed week full of fun activities based at school and using local providers. These organised events are to enable the children to come together and celebrate their time at Whitehall Junior with one another. Further information about Whitehall Week will be shared with you in due course.

Knowledge Mats

Mayan Civilisation: KS2 Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary	Exciting Books
glyphs Symbols used in the Mayan writing system. Each symbol represents a word or sound.	
codices Bookings used by the Mayans. They were made of soft bark and folded like a fan.	
Chichen Itza The Mayans' most well-known pyramid.	
cocoa Seeds that the Mayans used to make chocolate.	
ahau or ahaw The most king or lord of a Mayan city-state.	
batalab A lesser lord, usually ruling over a smaller area.	
Itzamna The most god of the Mayans. Itzamna was the god of the earth, medicine, the sun, and the underworld.	
hup'it A traditional garment worn by Mayan women.	
K'in Word for weaving in the Mayan calendar.	
Kukulcan The serpent god of the Mayans. One of the primary gods, especially to the lowland Mayan.	
Uinal Word for a month in the Mayan calendar. It was 20 days long.	

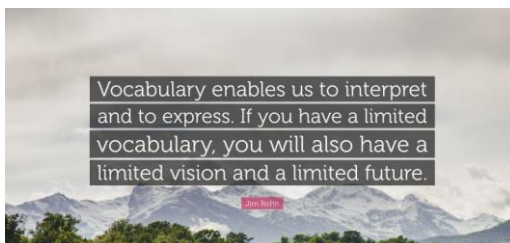
Slick Knowledge about the Mayan civilization

- ❑ The Mayans were excellent mathematicians and astronomers. They used their expertise to make calendars.
- ❑ Although the Mayans had remarkable skills, they did not have a written language. Instead, they used pictographs to communicate.
- ❑ Mayan religion was extremely polytheistic, demanding human sacrifice and bloodletting. Priests, the Mayans believed in an afterlife and that humans were sacrificed to the gods. In the underworld, war and women who died in childbirth went to the house of mistral.
- ❑ At the top of Mayan society was the king and royal family who were believed to be closely related to the gods. An educated elite of nobles, overseers, judges formed the ruling class. They occupied the best buildings in the city.
- ❑ Mayan society was formed of a number of city states each with their own ruler.

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 - Y6 Evolution Vocabulary List 2026

Word	Meaning
offspring	a child or animal in relation to its parent or parents.
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid; a nucleic acid that is the main constituent of the chromosomes of all organisms. DNA is self-replicating, plays a central role in protein synthesis, and is responsible for the transmission of hereditary characteristics from parents to offspring
evolution	biology a gradual change in the characteristics of a population of animals or plants over successive generations: accounts for the origin of existing species from ancestors unlike them
variation	a marked deviation from the typical form or function
adaptation	any alteration in the structure or function of an organism or any of its parts that results from natural selection and by which the

	organism becomes better fitted to survive and multiply in its environment.
fossils	any remains, impression, or trace of a living thing of a former geologic age, as a skeleton, footprint, etc.
inhabited	to live or dwell in (a place), as people or animals

SCIENCE – Y6 Living Things and their Habitat Vocabulary List 2026

Word	Meaning
classification	the assignment of organisms to groups within a system of categories distinguished by structure, origin, etc.
vertebrate	having vertebrae; having a backbone or spinal column.
invertebrate	of or relating to creatures without a backbone.
recognise	to identify from knowledge of appearance or characteristics
characteristics	pertaining to, constituting, or indicating the character or peculiar quality of a person or thing; typical; distinctive
environment	the air, water, minerals, organisms, and all other external factors surrounding and affecting a given organism at any time
climate	a region or area characterised by a given climate

HISTORY – Y6 Mayan Civilization Vocabulary List 2026

Word	Meaning
Mesoamerica	Mesoamerica is a historical region and cultural area in North America. It extends from approximately central Mexico through Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica, and within this region pre-Columbian societies flourished before the Spanish colonisation of the Americas.
Pre-classic period	The Preclassic period in Maya history stretches from the beginning of permanent village life c. 1000 BC. until the advent of the Classic Period c. 250 AD, and is subdivided into Early (prior to 1000 BC), Middle (1000-400 BC), and Late (400 BC-250 AD).
Post-classic period	Postclassic Period. The end of the Terminal Classic Period has been viewed as the death knell for the Maya civilization, and the Postclassic Period has traditionally been described as a militaristic, decadent, and degenerate phase in Maya history.
inscription	The activity of inscribing (especially carving or engraving) letters or words
glyphs	In typography, a glyph is an elemental symbol within an agreed set of symbols, intended to represent a readable character for the purposes of writing. Glyphs are considered to be unique marks that collectively add up to the spelling of a word or contribute to a specific meaning of what is written, with that meaning dependent on cultural and social usage.
stele	An ancient upright stone slab bearing markings.
hierarchy	A series of ordered groupings of people or things within a system
sacrifice	The act of killing (an animal or person) in order to propitiate a deity
ancestor	Someone from whom you are descended (but usually more remote than a

	grandparent)
city-state	A state consisting of a sovereign city.
codex	An unbound manuscript of some ancient classic (as distinguished from a scroll).
cenote	A natural pit, or sinkhole, resulting from the collapse of limestone bedrock that exposes groundwater underneath. Especially associated with the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, cenotes were sometimes used by the ancient Maya for sacrificial offerings.
pyramid	A polyhedron having a polygonal base and triangular sides with a common vertex
warrior	Someone engaged in or experienced in warfare
maize	The tall annual cereal grass bearing kernels on large ears: widely cultivated in America in many varieties; the principal cereal in Mexico and Central and South America since pre-Columbian times
monument	A structure erected to commemorate persons or events
archaeologist	An anthropologist who studies prehistoric people and their culture
astrology	A pseudoscience claiming divination by the positions of the planets and sun and moon
polytheism	Belief in multiple gods
deity	Any supernatural being worshipped as controlling some part of the world or some aspect of life or who is the personification of a force.
ceremony	A formal event performed on a special occasion
temple	A place of worship consisting of an edifice for the worship of a deity
legacy	A gift of personal property by will
disunite	To part; cease or break association with
dominate	To be in control
sophisticated	Having or appealing to those having worldly knowledge and refinement
drought	A shortage of rainfall
merchant	A businessperson engaged in retail trade
tribute	Something given or done as an expression of esteem

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

January 2026