

# Year 6 Autumn 1: The Seven Seas

## Welcome to Year 6!

Welcome to the new academic year! We hope that both you and your children have had a wonderful summer break. The year 6 team are raring to go and are committed to ensuring that your children have an enjoyable and successful final year at Talavera!

This term's topic is 'The Seven Seas'. Within English, our key texts will be 'Survivor' - a story about a young boy's journey aboard the Titanic and 'Boy with the Butterfly Mind' where we meet Jamie, a young boy diagnosed with ADHD and Elin, a young girl struggling with the separation of her parents; these books are always a huge hit with the children!



## Attendance

100%

As this year is such an important year, it is essential that children are here every day and on time. Wherever possible, please ensure that any medical or dental appointments are made outside of school time.

## Autumn 1 (8 weeks) The Seven Seas

**English:** 'Survivor' and 'The Boy with the Butterfly Mind'  
Handwriting, spelling and grammar  
**Maths:** See medium term plan on our website

**Art:** Painting—Frida Kahlo  
**DT:** Fairground rides  
**French:** Canada  
**Music:** Notation - Amazing machines  
**PE:** Outdoor Education and Fitness

**Computing:** Online safety  
**Geography:** Economic activity  
**History:** Titanic—Belfast  
**PSHE:** Democracy  
**RE:** Christianity—Imagery  
**Science:** Light

## KEY DATES

**Wednesday 3rd September** - INSET day  
**Thursday 4th September** - First day back  
**w/c Monday 8th September** - PSHE week  
**Friday 12th September** - All year 6 job applications close  
**Monday 15th and 16th September** - Prefect interviews  
**Wednesday 24th September** - Flu Vaccinations  
**Friday 26th September** - Charity Bake Sale  
**w/c Monday 29th September** - **SATs mock week**  
**Thursday 2nd October** - Poetry Day  
**Friday 3rd October** - Chessington Trip  
**Monday 6th October** - Y6 expectations evening for parents/ carers 3:30—4:30 in Manatees classroom  
**w/c Monday 6th October** - National Library Week  
**Friday 10th October**—Fijian day  
**Friday 17th October** - Harvest Festival / Cross country  
**Thursday 23rd October** - Last day of half-term

## HOMework

Year 6 is a pivotal year and to best prepare the children for secondary school, we expect all homework to be completed on time. In line with this preparation, any child who hasn't completed their homework or would prefer a designated space to complete this, they will attend homework club on a Thursday lunch time.

This half term, children will be receiving the following homework each week:

**Maths:** This will be sent out in orange books on a **Tuesday and due in the following Wednesday**. Children are also expected to access Times Tables Rockstars at least once weekly.

**Spellings:** Spellings will be shared with the children on a Monday morning and it is their responsibility to write these down to practise at home **ready for the test on a Friday**.

**Grammar / Reading:** On alternate weeks, grammar or reading comprehension homework will be sent out on **Tuesday and due in the following Wednesday**. Both will be stuck into English homework books. Children are also expected to be **reading at home a minimum of x3 per week**. This should be evidenced in their reading records.

## BOOSTER CLUBS

Please look out for letters on Arbor inviting children to booster groups before and/or after school. If your child has been selected by their teacher, it is essential they attend to reach their potential.



**SAVE THE DATE: 3rd October!** To celebrate and launch our DT topic in Autumn 1, year 6 are going to **Chessington World of Adventures** to take part in an exciting workshop and explore forces and rollercoasters! Please confirm your child's place on Arbor no later than **Wednesday 17th September**. Without these voluntary contributions, we are unable to run these events for your child. Please contact us if you need help with payment.

## Backpacks

Parents, following our communication in July, please be advised that children should not have backpacks.

This is due to a lack of space in the school now that we have 510 pupils.

Instead, pupils should bring their lunch, water bottle and reading record/ book in a **drawstring bag**.

Pupils should also have a drawstring bag for their PE kit.

We also will not have keyrings or similar items which hang from bags. We cannot, unfortunately, assure that these are kept safe. We have had items go missing previously which is distressing for children.

The school has a small supply of drawstring bags which we can sell for 50p. Please be advised that we do not make a profit from this.



### Physical Education:

P.E. is a vital part of our curriculum, a government requirement and a subject our children enjoy. However, to ensure children are able to fully participate, it is vital that children remember their PE kit.

Although we understand some children wear their P.E. kit to clubs, their kit should be in school **every day**.

### Talavera Smart:



Children are only permitted to wear one pair of earrings **which must be studs**. These must be removed or covered with tape brought in from home on PE days.

Children should be wearing black school trousers/ skirt/ dress daily. **Leggings and jogging bottoms are not permitted**.

Children should wear a white polo shirt which is different from their PE top.

Nail polish and temporary tattoos must be removed before coming to school.



Hair which is shoulder length or longer must be tied up.

A red cardigan or jumper should be worn in school. **Hoodies are not part of the uniform policy**.

Your child needs to wear plain, black shoes. Please see some examples below. Contact us if you're not sure. For PE, your child should have either the Talavera PE top or a red/ white plain t-shirt, black shorts or leggings and suitable trainers.

### School shoes:

Your child needs to wear plain, black shoes. Please see some examples below. Contact us if you're not sure.



We are increasingly concerned about the impact of smartphones on our children, in-line with many other schools in Hampshire. Acknowledging the alarming amount of evidence and research about the negative effects of smartphones and social media, we are committing to making Hampshire primary schools smartphone free.

**Please note that your child will not be permitted to have a smartphone in school, regardless of their transport home.** "Brick" phones without internet connectivity may be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, we ask for your support in making the school mobile phone free in general. We had a huge and positive response from children following No Mobile May; we want to continue this opportunity to greet your child with a smile. Thank you for your support in this.



### Online Safety at home

We know that it can be difficult to keep up with the most recent trends online and how to protect children. We try to share the most up-to-date information that we have as schools. However, some key tips can form the foundation of keeping your child safe online:

- \*Check your child's devices to monitor their usage
- \*Limit screen time, particularly before bed
- \*Talk regularly and openly about being safe
- \*Hold your child to account for their language



## Standard Assessment Tests - SATs

This academic year, your child will sit the Key Stage 2 SATs. This is taken by every child in England to ensure they are prepared for the curriculum challenges in secondary school.

Throughout the year, the children will have "Practice Weeks" to help them prepare for the test conditions and questioning styles.

The 2026 Key Stage 2 SATs will take place in the week commencing 11th May 2026.



## Reading Recommendations



Finally, our school expectation is that children read at least 3 times a week. This can be a mixture of their reading book, school library book or any book they enjoy reading at home; we just ask it is recorded in their reading record.

This year, we have a whole school focus on reading for pleasure. Please remember: children are free to borrow books from our in-school library or using the SORA app run by Hampshire library service that the school has paid the subscription for. On this platform, children can borrow a range of books including comics and audio books. Your child will be given their login again in September. Please also remember that it is free to sign up to Aldershot library where children can borrow additional books. Below are some books which are linked to our learning this half-term which your child may enjoy; many of these are available on SORA.



If you would like any more recommendations for your child, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher or visit this website: [www.readerteacher.co.uk](http://www.readerteacher.co.uk) and view the 'recommendations' webpage!

## The Reader Teacher

Reads, Reviews & Recommendations!

