

Southcote Primary School



Years 5 and 6



2015-2016

In Years 5 and 6, we strive to continue to make school a fun and exciting place, where the children are happy and feel safe to learn and enjoy new experiences through our themed curriculum. Nonetheless, in Years 5 and 6, we begin to prepare children for their SATs at the end of Key Stage Two and for when they leave us and start their new journey at secondary school. When they eventually leave primary school and begin secondary school, they will experience many more demands on them in terms of beginning to organise themselves, take on more responsibility and the higher expectations of homework from across the curriculum. This information aims to layout the expectations, experiences and opportunities that the children will have in Upper Key Stage Two and to equip them with the skills, knowledge and outlook they will need for a positive, successful start for their future in Years 5 and 6, at secondary school and beyond.

Curriculum

Themes.

Our themed curriculum enables children to make strong links in their learning. Where possible, links are made between what the children are studying in English and Mathematics and the other curriculum subjects such as Science, History, Geography, Art and Design, R.E., P.E., Computing, Citizenship, Music and Languages. Our themes this year are:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 5	Location, location	Space	It's not fair!		It's all Greek to me!	
Year 6	3Bs	Coast to Coast	Shades of light	Let's look after ourselves!		All things dangerous

Detailed Curriculum Maps can be found on the school website under 'Curriculum – Curriculum Maps'.

Maths

This year, the Year 6 children will be the first to sit the new Arithmetic test. This will assesses pupils' confidence with the range of mathematical operations. However, although there is now no mental maths test, it is imperative that children still practise their mental maths skills such as:

- times timetables (the new Curriculum states children should know their times tables to 12x12 by the end of Year 4) and related division facts.
- number bonds with numbers to 10, 20, 100, 1000.
- adding and subtracting numbers mentally
- doubling and halving
- equivalence between fractions, decimals and percentages
- prime numbers
- divisibility rules

Reading

As in previous years, children are expected to read at least five times a week and record this in their reading diaries, which should be brought into school daily. They will be checked weekly for our Reading Awards and the children will receive certificates for reading five times a week. It is essential that your child not only reads everyday, but also reads a range of different text types. For example, short stories, novels, non-fiction texts, diaries, newspapers and poems. Here are some ideas to get your child reading different texts:

- School library
- Local/Central library
- BBC Newsround website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>
- First News (school has a subscription) or <http://info.firstnews.co.uk>
- Reading and making recipes (maths link too!)
- Reading user manuals or instructions for games etc.
- National Geographic for Kids (school has a subscription) or <http://ngkids.co.uk>

Writing

As in previous years, children will continue to write across a range of fiction, non-fiction genres and poetry. In English, we carefully study a text and writers' techniques with the aim of equipping the children with the skills to write their own texts. In addition to this, we aim to provide the children with rich experiences, enabling them to apply their skills to independent pieces of writing. There is no end of Key Stage Writing SAT and writing will be teacher-assessed in line with the standards of the National Curriculum.

SPaG

In order for your child to do well in SPaG, they don't just have to be good at writing; they also need a **technical understanding of how the English language works**. As well as being able to spell words correctly, use a wide range of vocabulary and punctuate well, they need to grasp the meaning of grammatical terms such as noun, verb, adjective, prefix, pronoun and adverb, know what phrases and clauses are and how to use them, understand what conjunctions are and how they work, know how to turn a question into a command, and so on. There are many resources online available to help you understand the new requirements of SPaG and for a parent-friendly guide to the vocabulary and how English and grammar concepts are taught in primary school see:

<http://www.theschoolrun.com/primary-literacy-glossary-for-parents>

Swimming and P.E.

We swim alternate terms. Year 5 will swim in Terms 1, 3 and 5 and Year 6 in terms 2, 4 and 6. Children should have an appropriate swimming costume; girls a one-piece costume and boys swimming trunks (not beach shorts). They should have a swimming cap (which you can purchase from the school office), indoor shoes, i.e. plimsoles/flip flops and a towel. All items should be clearly marked with their name. Children are not permitted to use spray deodorants or creams in the pool (apart from for medical reasons, in which case you should inform your child's class teacher).

On the alternate terms, children will take part in P.E. For indoor P.E. they will need black shorts and a plain white t-shirt and black plimsoles (not trainers). During the colder weather, children may wear a plain tracksuit for outdoor P.E.

It is useful if children always have their P.E. kit in school with them every day in case of any 'special events' that requires them to wear their P.E. kit and/or plimsoles. Also, this year, we are lucky to have a dance teacher working with us in school, where they will also need their P.E. kit.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school. Children are allowed to wear a wristwatch. If your child has had their ears pierced they may wear small plain studs only. Earrings must be removed or taped over during P.E, please supply your child with tape. No make-up or nail varnish is allowed.



Homework

Spelling - each week, children will have a set of words to learn for spelling, these are taken from the new National Curriculum and will comprise of words that either follow spelling patterns, words which can be spelt phonetically or words which are considered 'tricky' words (cannot be spelt phonetically). As well as learning their spellings, children will have a written activity to complete - this should be completed in their homework diary. Please encourage your child to take pride in their homework and complete it to as high a standard as they would in their books in school. A more detailed outline of the National Curriculum Spelling requirements can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239784/English_Appendix_1_-_Spelling.pdf

Maths – children should continue to learn and practise their timetables up to 12x12. They should learn them in order, out of order and the related division facts. Even when they know their times tables, they should still practise reciting them regularly to keep them in the forefront of their minds, ready to call on when needed. In addition to this, children will be set on-line homework on MyMaths and/or Education City, their user name and password is unchanged, but we will remind the children to this at the start of term. These should be logged in their reading record. Their maths teacher may set other written homework in order for them to practise and consolidate their learning in class, particularly in Year 6 in the run up to SATs.

Reading – as in the Reading section above, children are expected to read a minimum of five times a week. Again, especially in year 6, they will sometimes get additional reading homework such as comprehension tasks.

Homework Project – as in previous years, each term we set the children a homework project related to their current topic. These are extremely popular with the children and gives them the opportunity to widen their understanding of the topic and for independent learning and research. At the end of each term they enjoy sharing them with the rest of their class.

Please note there will be no homework project set in Term 5 for **Year 6** pupils as this is the term where they will sit their SATs tests.



Trips

We aim to give the children opportunities to experience different places, activities and opportunities outside of the classroom. Usually, these are linked to their topic and endeavour to broaden their understanding and experiences. We offer trips during the school day and two residential trips. We are always looking for parent helpers on our day trips and if you would like to offer your help, you will need a DBS (previously CRB) check. Please ask your child's class teacher or the School Office for a form. For trips where transport or entrance fees are payable, we do ask for a contribution towards these. We understand that in these difficult financial times that some families may be concerned about the cost of trips, in which case, you should speak to your child's class teacher. Unfortunately, school cannot cover the cost of these trips for all children.

Day/Local Trips

Trips planned so far this year are:

Year 5

	Trip	Date	Cost
Term 1	Reading Town Visit	tbc	Free
Term 2	Southcote Library	10 th November	Free
Term 3	Restaurant visit	tbc	tbc
Term 4	Visit to local supermarket	tbc	Free
Term 5	Picnic in the park (Prospect Park)	tbc	£2.00
Term 6	Seaside (Hayling Island)	1 st July	Approximately £12 plus cost of food e.g. fish and chips.

Year 6

	Trip	Date	Cost
Term 1	Reading Museum and Town Centre	16 th September	
Term 2	Southcote Library	10 th November	Free
Term 3	National Portrait Gallery, London	14 th January	tbc
Term 4	Canal walk.	Tbc	free
Term 5	Possible visit to the Mansion House	Tbc	tbc
Term 6	Seaside (Hayling Island)	1 st July	Approximately £12 plus cost of food e.g. fish and chips.

tbc (to be confirmed)



Residential Trips

In Years 5 and 6, the children have the opportunity to take part in two residential trips.

Rhos-y-Gwalia

Rhos y Gwaliau Outdoor Education Centre is situated in stunning open countryside on the eastern side of the Snowdonia National Park. It has all the mod cons e.g. hot showers, central heating, drying room, good food, comfortable dormitories and common room for relaxation after a hard day!

The cost of this trip is £225.00 per child as we have managed to secure additional sponsorship which we cannot guarantee for next year. The Rhos y Gwaliau trip has limited spaces and will be on a first come, first served basis. Due to being very popular last year we did actually have a waiting list. Rhos y Gwaliau is an activity-based week and the centre staff are fully qualified and experienced in providing these exciting activities. The aim is to give the children experiences and opportunities to develop physically, personally and socially. They also learn team-building skills and experience 'once in a lifetime' activities.

The centre is equipped with personal resources including boots, waterproofs and rucksacks. Modern specialist equipment is provided for:-

Canoeing, kayaking, sailing, mountain walking, rock climbing, orienteering, mine exploration, gorge walking, problem solving and camping.

Our visit will be arranged to suit the needs of our children. Miss. Colette Hodges, who will lead the group has visited the centre many times and will plan our week with the centre staff. The centre has its own minibuses. Coaches are arranged to take the children from school to Rhos y Gwaliau and to return at the end of the week.

All the activities will take place in a safe, caring and supportive atmosphere. The children are expected to take a small part in sharing domestic duties e.g. clearing tables.

The children will leave school on **Monday 2nd November** and return on **Saturday 7th November**. Payment for the full balance of this trip will be required **by Friday 9th October**. For more information, please visit www.rhosygwaliau.co.uk.

Rushall Farm

The visit to Rushall Farm next year is Monday 20th- Friday 24th June (Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd for Year 5/Wednesday 22nd – Friday 24th for Year 6). Children travel by coach to Rushall Farm, which is situated a few miles from school, between Bradfield and Stanford Dingley.

This three-day/two night residential is a wonderful opportunity for children to experience camping and a range of outdoor pursuits. Activities that are on offer include: pond dipping, river sweeping, sheep herding, bivouac building, trailer rides, fire lighting, campfires, visiting a working farm, enjoying a BBQ and setting mammal traps. As well as these activities, we also take a stroll through the beautiful countryside to Bradfield College, where we privately hire the swimming pool for the exclusive use of our campers for one hour (life-guards and school staff in attendance). The tents are provided and children share either a two or three-man tent with a friend/s. A full kit list will be supplied on booking and there is a Parent meeting on **Thursday 9th June at 2.30 p.m.** where we will give you further details and answer any of your questions.

Bikeability

Bikeability is a cycle training programme available to Years 5 and 6 children. It's like cycling proficiency, but better! It's about gaining practical skills and understanding how to cycle on today's roads. Bikeability gives everyone the skills and confidence for all kinds of cycling.

There are three Bikeability levels, each designed to improve cycling skills, no matter what is known already. Levels 1, 2 and 3 take trainees from the basics of balance and control, all the way to planning and making an independent journey on busier roads.

In Term 1, we offer Levels 1 and 2 to Years 5 and 6. In Term 6, Year 6 children can take the Level 3 course. They must have completed Levels 1 and 2 and should be somewhat experienced at cycling on the road.

Level 1

New riders learn to control and master their bikes in a space away from traffic in the school playground. At Level 1 you can:

- prepare yourself and your bike for cycling
- get on and off your bike without help
- start off, pedal and stop with control
- pedal along, use gears and avoid objects
- look all around and behind, and control the bike
- share space with pedestrians and other cyclists

Level 2

Level 2 takes place on local streets, giving trainees a real cycling experience. Trainees learn how to deal with traffic on short journeys such as cycling to school or the local shops. At Level 2 you can:

- prepare for on-road cycling
- start and finish an on-road journey
- recognise typical hazards
- let others know what you are about to do
- know where to ride on the road
- pass parked vehicles and side roads

Level 3

Level 3 equips trainees with skills for more challenging roads and traffic situations – busier streets, queuing traffic, complex junctions and roundabouts. It also includes planning routes for safe cycling. At Level 3 you can:

- prepare for a journey
- understand advanced road positioning
- pass queuing traffic
- perceive and deal with hazards
- understand driver blind spots
- react to hazardous road surface

End of Year Production.

At the end of the year in Terms 5 and 6, Upper Key Stage 2 being to prepare for their end of year performance. The children are involved in all stages of the performance from making props and scenery, devising and learning dances, learning songs and practicing lines etc. The 'acting' roles are given to Year 6 and Year 5 making up the wonderful choir, which accompanies the play.

We do two performances to the parents, one in the afternoon, which children are welcome to attend and an evening, adult only performance. The children work extremely hard on the production and look forward to performing it to visitors, therefore it is essential that **ALL** children both Year 5 and Year 6 attend the evening performance. The date for next years' evening performance is **Wednesday 20th July** at 6.30 p.m. Children need to come into school from about 6.00 p.m. to get ready. We thank you for your support on this one evening a year when we ask children to come back into school for an event. (Afternoon performance is **Tuesday 19th July**).



End of Key Stage 2 SATs Tests

Year 6 children will take the SATs tests week commencing 9th May. This will consist of:

- a Reading paper, (one hour including reading time) children answer questions in a variety of formats on a selection of increasingly difficult texts (1500-2300 words) – **50 marks**;
- a SPaG paper (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) paper (45 minutes)- **50 marks**;
- a Spelling test 20 spellings read by a member of school staff - **20 marks**
- an Arithmetic paper (30 minutes), this replaces the previous 'mental maths' test and assesses pupils' confidence with the range of mathematical operations – **40 marks**
- two Maths papers (each 40 minutes) assessing mathematical fluency, solving problems and reasoning – **35 marks per paper – 70 overall**

During the SATs week, children should come into school by 8:30 am, where they will come into class and enjoy a glass of fruit juice and a cereal bar. Teachers will be present to welcome them in and make sure they are settled before the tests take place. It is essential that all children attend school everyday during the SATs tests.

Prior to the tests, children will be set Literacy and Mathematics homework by their teachers to prepare them for the tests. We will also provide children with bespoke 'booster' sessions as necessary. During the year, we will also provide children with the opportunity for 'mock' SATs tests, so that they are familiar with the format and working to a time limit.

On Monday 11th January at 2:30 p.m., there will be a SATs parent workshop where further details will be given and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and view the range of SATs materials. We will also be offering CGP Study Guides for the SATs, which are at a discounted rate if purchased through school – an order form will be sent out nearer the time.



Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to your child's Class Teacher or the Team Leader, Miss Clarke.