



# Fishbourne C E Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs N Day MA (Ed)

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to your child's final year of primary school!

Doesn't the time fly? I am sure you can vividly remember waving your child off on their first day of school and yet in a flash, here we are in Year 6.

I am delighted to be teaching the Hippo's. I will be supported in the mornings by Nicola Hack and in the afternoons by Cristina Dumitriu.

This year is a really important one. It will be a year of exciting learning, responsibilities, privileges and preparation for their next step – going to secondary school. I will do all I can to ensure your child leaves Fishbourne ready to shine as a confident, eager learner. I do ask that you work closely with me to achieve this; learning is a partnership and together we achieve more. This letter will outline the learning we will cover in the autumn term, our routines and expectations.

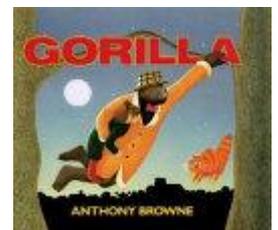
## Our Learning Experiences – Autumn Term 2025

### **Off we go!**

We start the year by going away together on residential. This is a week to get to know each other, to challenge ourselves and to have fun!

### **Gorilla!**

Anthony Browne's incomparable artwork illuminates the deeply satisfying story of a lonely girl, a friendly gorilla, and their enchanted night out. Hannah spends all of her time reading gorilla books, watching gorilla TV shows, and drawing gorilla pictures. She has gorillas on her bedside lamp and even on her box of cereal. Hannah loves gorillas and longs to see a real one, but her father is always too busy - or too tired - to take her to the zoo. Then, on the night before her birthday, something extraordinary happens - and Hannah's wish comes gloriously true. Our end



goal will be to retell the story in our own words using a range of language techniques and structural devices.

### **Habitats (Science)**

We will be hooked into learning with a trip to Fishbourne Meadows and Chichester Harbour. Our learning will cover classification of organisms into broad groups, exploring diverse habitats like forests, grasslands, deserts, and tundras, and investigating the interconnectedness of living things through food chains. The Hippo's will learn about Carl Linnaeus and the binomial naming system, how to use classification keys to identify plants and animals, and the crucial role of habitats in providing food, shelter, and space for animals and plants to thrive. Our end goal will be to create a non-chronological report to showcase our learning.

### **Art**



We will focus on exploring different media such as paint, print, and collage, and developing our control and creativity. We will learn to analyse the work of Salvador Dali and understand how he expressed ideas and messages before we then plan our own creations! Key skills will include using the elements of art and principles of design, experimenting with materials, using sketchbooks to document ideas, and providing and receiving constructive feedback! Our end goal will be to create a Glass art gallery.

### **Design Technology**

A whole school learning experience! Look out for details coming soon!

### **Evolution and Inheritance**

This science-based learning experience will ensure we become an expert on Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. We will learn about his life, his research, the fossils he collected, his theories about geology, his beliefs about extinction and how he wrote his theory of evolution. Our hook for this learning will be the arrival of some incredible animal skeletons. We will also be visiting Chichester New Park Cinema who will be supporting our learning through film! Our end goal will be an explanation text based on Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species'.



### **Expectations and Routines**

As ambassadors for our school, the Year 6 children will set the example for the rest of the school community. Younger children will look to them as role models. Year 6 model our expectations for school uniform, attitudes to

learning and behaviour. I have very high expectations of our Year 6 children who I know will shine! **Remember: Ready, Respectful, Safe!**

**PE Kit** – All children must wear black shorts, a school-coloured PE top, white socks and trainers. Children may wear their leavers hoody/plain black joggers in colder weather. No other clothing is permitted – no exceptions I'm afraid! PE will be on a Monday and a Tuesday.

Leavers hoodies may only be worn during PE sessions, on school trips and during our residential week away.

**Homework** – This will be set on a **Monday** and is expected to be completed and handed in the following **Monday**. The homework is designed to ensure: your child has the opportunity to develop self-study which is vital for secondary school, they have time to secure key learning and they revisit important topics. It is important that you check your child has completed the tasks by signing the sheet provided each week. All homework should be presented with care in the book provided. **Do support and check in with your child as they may need help. This is an opportunity for you to support your child in making progress and securing vital knowledge.** Please remind children to check their punctuation and spelling. They will be asked to ask me for any support BEFORE the homework is due in. Your child also has a personal reading book and a journal to log their reading. Please check that they are reading daily and updating their journal. Please do ensure your child gets into a good routine with some quiet space and scheduled time to complete their tasks. Time invested now in developing routines and attitudes will ensure you don't have a battle next year! Any homework not completed will result in children being asked to complete their tasks during lunchtimes.

### **Music, Religious Education and French**

Mrs Gifford and Mr Servant will teach Year 6 every Friday afternoon. They will teach French and Music each week.

On a Wednesday afternoon, Mr Servant will teach Religious Education and Computing.

### **Interventions and Support**

We know that short, focused 1:1 or small group work can support children in securing key topics. Often, they just need a little extra time and then things click! We have carefully planned our week to ensure we maximise every moment of the school day. Your child may work with myself, Mrs Dumitriu or Mrs Hack. During this time your child will work on areas where I feel they need a little extra support. If your child misses a PE lesson to complete this intervention, they will be invited to an additional PE session to make up for this.

## **Communication**

There will be a '6 weeks in' meeting in October. Please do make a note of this meeting which will be at 2:30 on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October. In this meeting, I will share important information on how to support your child.

The year ahead is going to be packed full of wonderful experiences and I am sure these will create long lasting memories!

### **IMPORTANT - Dates for your diary!**

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2025 Trip to Fishbourne Meadows. Drop off at school as normal. Please collect your child from Dell Quay at 2:30pm.**

**Visits to New Park Cinema Chichester**

**Arrive at 8:30am. Parents to drop off please. We will walk back to school.**

**27<sup>th</sup> Nov, 8<sup>th</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> February.**

**Further details about these trips to follow.**

**Fort Nelson**

**Parents to drop and collect please on 22/01/2026**

Thank you in advance for your support.

Very best wishes

Catherine Williams