



Fishbourne C E Primary School

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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 Crocodiles. I will be supported in the mornings by Cristina Dumitriu who the children know so well.

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. We will do all we can to ensure your child leaves Fishbourne ready to shine as a confident, eager learner. We do ask that you work closely with us to achieve this; learning is a partnership and together we achieve more.

It is vital that your child is on time, ready to learn each day and that absences are avoided. Children with 95% to 100% attendance have significantly higher odds of reaching the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths so please do support your child to arrive at 8:40am each day. The gate will close at 8:45am.

This letter will outline the learning we will cover in the autumn term, our routines and expectations.

Our Learning Experiences – Autumn Term 2026

Crew

A CREW meeting takes place every morning, with children coming together in groups of 10-15 with either myself or Mrs Dumitriu. We may lead Crew or one of the children will take on this role. As a leader, we facilitate discussions and connections between the children. Each day there is a different focus to

CREW which is planned deliberately and carefully to provide the children with a wealth of opportunities.

The Final Year

This is an extraordinary verse novel about the final year of primary school, told through poetry! This will be our first text of the year and we are lucky enough to already have 30 copies, donated by our wonderful previous class, the Hippos! The verses capture the character of Year 6 pupil Nate as he navigates issues of school, family illness, emotions, change and friendships. Year 6 is a very important year for many children and the book captures some of that shared experience, including the run-up to SATs, friendships and challenges during a time when a sense of big changes is in the air. Our end goal will be to write a poem about ourselves in the same style as the author, Matt Goodfellow.

Off we go!

We leave for our weeks residential on Monday 14th September. We will keep you updated through our Instagram page. Fingers crossed for the weather!

Habitats (Science)

We will be hooked into learning with a trip to Fishbourne Meadows and Chichester Harbour. **This will be on Wednesday 23rd September 2026.**

Children will need to be collected from Dell Quay at 2:30pm so please do make a note in your diary and support one another to arrange lifts home. We would love 2 additional helpers who are happy to attend. Please do let us know if you can help. 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 Croc'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.

Return!

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

Half Term

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 skeleton. We will also be visiting Chichester New Park Cinema who will be supporting our learning through film! **This will be on Tuesday 10th November and children need to be dropped off at the Cinema for 8:30am please.** Our end goal will be an explanation text based on Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species'.



Art - The Art of Imagination



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

Textiles – Combining different fabric shapes

Our end goal will be to design, make and evaluate Christmas tree decorations! If we have any keen volunteers, this is always an area of our learning that we would love some additional support with!

End of Term

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

Reading

The single most important way of supporting your child this year is to ensure they are reading daily. Your child has been given 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 quite space and time to read each day.

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! Kits should be in school all week, taken home weekly for cleaning.

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. Writing should be in pen or pencil – not felt tips. **Time invested now in developing routines and attitudes will ensure you don't have a battle next year at secondary school 😊**

Music, Computing Religious Education and French

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

On a Friday 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. 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 learning review meetings in the final week of the first half term – details of how to sign up will follow. Please do ensure you attend with your child so that we can all work together.

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!

14th September RESIDENTIAL. We return on Friday 18th September.

Wednesday 23rd September 2026. Children will need to be collected from Dell Quay at 2:30pm so please do make a note in your diary and support one another to arrange lifts home. We would love 2 additional helpers who are happy to attend. Please do let us know if you can help

**Visits to New Park Cinema Chichester on Tuesday 10th November.
Arrive at 8:30am. Parents to drop off please. We will walk back to school.**

Thank you in advance for your support.

Very best wishes

Catherine Williams