WELCOME TO YEAR 6



Year 6 2026 - 2027

REFLECTION & PRAYER

I used to think that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things

St Teresa of Calcutta

Father,
We thank you for our school community, knowing that we can learn from each other and grow in faith. We pray for all those involved in our school, and that all of us may grow as the people you call us to be.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen

YOUR YEAR 6 TEAM

- 6SB – Mrs A Bailey (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

  - Mrs R Sanders (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

- 6HD – Mrs Hinings (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

  - Mrs Downing (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

Also working in Year 6: Mrs Savage (based in 6SB) and Mrs Mosionek (based in 6HD).

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL





Mission, Vision and Aims

The family of St. Francis of Assisi is a school community following in the footsteps of Christ and built on the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.

Mission – ***'Learning & Growing Together in God's Love'***

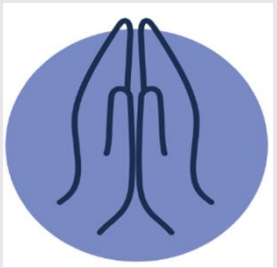
Inspired by the life of Christ we seek to provide an exceptional education which enables our children:

- to fully embrace all possibilities
- to flourish
- to develop their faith

and therefore to choose a path that enables them to be a positive influence upon our world



An exceptional RE offer – pupils will leave St Francis with a high level of religious literacy and subject knowledge.



A deep knowledge of the prayer and liturgy traditions of the Catholic faith and an understanding of the importance of respect for, and dialogue and encounter with, those of other faiths or with none.



An understanding that their mission as human beings is to make a positive difference in the world that they live in.

RSE (RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION)

Information can be found on our school website, under the ‘Curriculum’ tab.

Our RSE policy and curriculum content has been developed by the Catholic Education Service, working in consultation with the DfE on the new national guidelines. The content of our curriculum has been advised and approved by the Bishop.

Each summer, parents are invited to a meeting in school to view the content of what their child is to be taught.







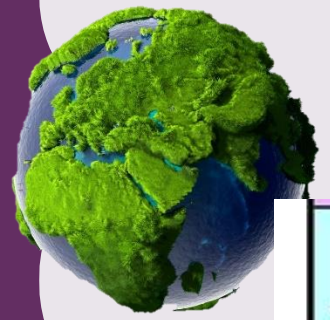
AIMS

- We are very happy to welcome your child into Year 6 and hope that they will find the year exciting, challenging and enjoyable.
- Our curriculum is designed to develop their understanding of the world around them and specific academic skills and develop learning skills and habits - resilience, perseverance, teamwork, organisation, and self-confidence - which will stand them in good stead as they progress on to high school and beyond.
- We look forward to working with you and your child and thoroughly preparing them for SATS and high school.

YEAR 6 CURRICULUM

We will have two keys themes this year : **Our Green Planet** (linked to our residential trip to Culmington Manor) and **People, Power and Parliament** which link with the Year 5 topics.

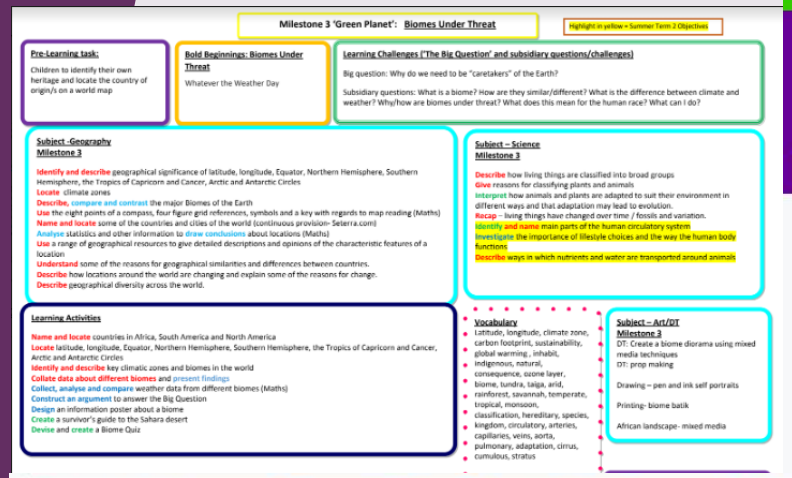
- Autumn Term 1 – Green Planet: Biomes Under Threat Pt 1
- Autumn Term 2 and Spring Term - Democracy: By Chance or By Design?
- Summer Term: Green Planet: Biomes Under Threat Pt 2





Milestone 3	Year 5	Green Planet: The Broads	Green Planet: The Rainforest	Green Planet: Plastic Pollution	People, Power and Parliament: Crime and Punishment – Up to Tudor	People, Power and Parliament: Crime and Punishment – Victorians	People, Power and Parliament: Crime and Punishment – Modern Day Policing
	Year 6	Green Planet: Biomes Under Threat Part 1	People, Power and Parliament: Democracy – By Design or Choice?			Green Planet: Biomes Under Threat Part 2	

WANT TO KNOW MORE? LOOK ON OUR WEBSITE!


Milestone 3 'Green Planet': Biomes Under Threat

Pre-Learning task:
Children to identify their own heritage and locate the country of origin/s on a world map

Bold Beginnings: Biomes Under Threat
Whatever the Weather Day

Learning Challenges ('The Big Question' and subsidiary questions/challenges)
Big question: Why do we need to be "caretakers" of the Earth?
Subsidiary questions: What is a biome? How are they similar/different? What is the difference between climate and weather? Why/how are biomes under threat? What does this mean for the human race? What can I do?

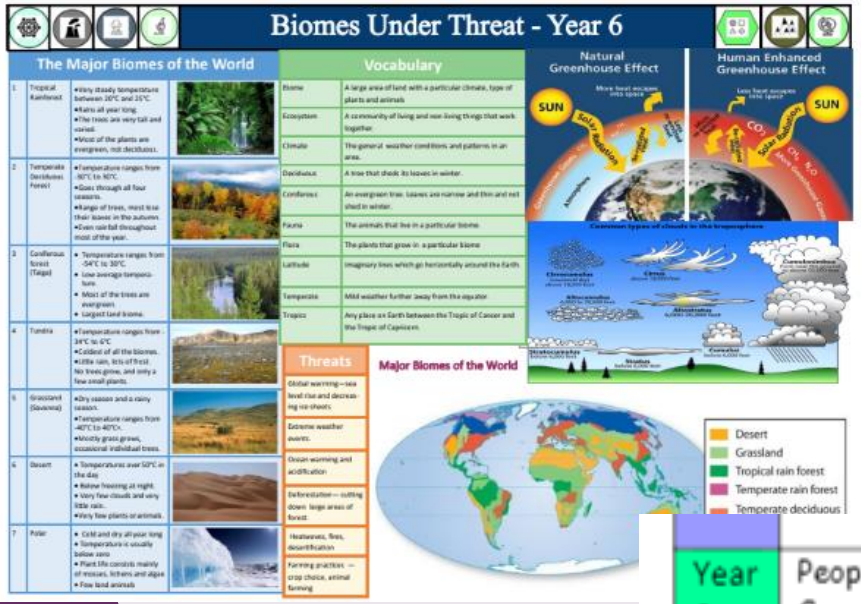
Subject -Geography
Milestone 3
Identify and describe geographical significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer, Arctic and Antarctic Circles
Locate climate zones
Describe, compare and contrast the major Biomes of the Earth
Use the eight points of a compass, four figure grid references, symbols and a key with regards to map reading (Maths)
Name and locate some of the countries and cities of the world (continuous provision- Seterra.com)
Analyse statistics and other information to draw conclusions about locations (Maths)
Use a range of geographical resources to give detailed descriptions and opinions of the characteristic features of a location
Understand some of the reasons for geographical similarities and differences between countries.
Describe how locations around the world are changing and explain some of the reasons for change.
Describe geographical diversity across the world.

Subject – Science
Milestone 3
Describe how living things are classified into broad groups
Give reasons for classifying plants and animals
Interpret how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.
Recap – living things have changed over time / fossils and variation.
Identify and name main parts of the human circulatory system
Investigate the importance of lifestyle choices and the way the human body functions
Describe ways in which nutrients and water are transported around animals

Learning Activities
Name and locate countries in Africa, South America and North America
Locate latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer, Arctic and Antarctic Circles
Identify and describe key climatic zones and biomes in the world
Collate data about different biomes and present findings
Collect, analyse and compare weather data from different biomes (Maths)
Construct an argument to answer the Big Question
Design an information poster about a biome
Create a survivor's guide to the Sahara desert
Devise and create a Biome Quiz

Vocabulary
Latitude, longitude, climate zone, carbon footprint, sustainability, global warming, , inhabit, indigenous, natural, consequence, ozone layer, biome, tundra, taiga, arid, rainforest, savannah, temperate, tropical, monsoon, classification, hereditary, species, kingdom, circulatory, arteries, capillaries, veins, aorta, pulmonary, adaptation, cirrus, cumulous, stratus

Subject – Art/DT
Milestone 3
DT: Create a biome diorama using mixed media techniques
DT: prop making
Drawing – pen and ink self portraits
Printing- biome batik
African landscape - mixed media





Year 6	People, Power & Parliament: Democracy - By Design or Choice? Green Planet: Biomes Under Threat	Democracy - By Design or Choice KO Biomes Under Threat KO

SATS

The Year 6 curriculum is designed to fully prepare the children for SATS and throughout the year we support and guide the children on next steps in their learning so that they can sit the tests with confidence. Part of this preparation may include your child being given specific small group tuition in order to develop particular skills and understanding. This provision includes:

- Booster support by teachers (small groups, by invitation)
- SATS Breakfast Club – during SATs week
- Revision Books – a selection will be recommended by Year 6 teachers in the Spring term

THE SCHOOL DIARY AND STATIONERY

In Year 6 we are keen to prepare the children for successful habits in high school and **therefore encourage active use of their diary** to keep track of homework, reading, school messages and bring their own stationery. Your part in this, are the following:

- **Ensure the diary is signed weekly** – anywhere on the relevant page is fine
- Use the diary to send a note to the class teacher
- Encourage your child to complete the diary - ask why there is no homework if the page is blank
- Encourage your child to use the reference pages which are Year 6 specific and there to aid home learning
- **Encourage your child reads regularly and any reading done is logged in the diary**
- **Provide your children with a pencil case and stationery suitable for school. Ensure they have something to write with.** As an extra, they will all be given a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and glue at the beginning of the year. They will only be replaced when they run out – NOT LOST.

Please encourage your child to take care of the diary and **have it in school everyday so that communications can be logged.**

HOMEWORK

- It is expected that homework will take an average of ½ hour/day not including free reading time
- **Maths** - times tables daily/weekly depending on recall
  - other Maths as and when set by the teacher
- **SPAG** – spelling consolidation and sentence development is set once a week

- If your child goes to Afterschool Club, please encourage them to do homework while there as they will be given the time to do it.
- Remember: Please feel free if there are any problems concerning homework to get in touch with your child's class teacher.

READING



- Reading fluency is an absolutely fundamental skill which will equip your child for life and impact upon their chances well beyond school
- Children's reading capacity and stamina also impact upon their access to every other area of the curriculum

- Families and carers can have a direct positive impact on this by-
  - Ensuring children are reading daily and recording this in their homework diary
  - Hearing their child read and talking to them about it
  - Reading to their children (at a level above their current comprehension)
  - A bit of each of the above across the week is the absolutely GOLD standard- life is busy and every little helps
  - Accessing some of the books on the summer reading list!

WORKING TOGETHER

- Use the Parent Info tab on the website and then look at Parents in School to find dates where there are events happening in school for your children and you to attend.
- **Please ensure that the school office has your correct and up to date email and phone numbers**
- Masses – all parents and friends are welcome to attend any masses taking place at school. Dates of these will be on the weekly newsletter which is emailed to you on a weekly basis
- Trips – Culmington Manor, November.
- Events – keep an eye out for any upcoming school events in the weekly newsletter.
- Sports Days – please come and watch Year 6 taking part in a variety of sporting challenges
- Sharing Skills – if you have a particular skill or interest that you think you would like to share with the children, please let us know.
- School diary – Children will record their homework and reading in here. Any comments or concerns can be passed along using their diary.

TRIPS

- Where:
  - Culmington Manor, November – adventurous activities and linked to Green Planet Topic. **Please make sure you continue to make the monthly payments via Wisepay for this.**
  - **There will be a parent's information meeting about the residential trip on ……. October 2026 at 3.30 in the school hall.**
  - Parliament/Westminster Abbey (Spring Term – hopefully!!) – linked to Democracy Topic

- When your child is on a school trip, please ensure that the emergency contact number is switched on and available.
- If you experience any difficulties paying for trips, please see Mrs Hope or Mrs Furness in confidence.

Culmington Manor



Year 6 will go to Culmington Manor, Shropshire from Monday 16th to Friday 20th November. The coach will depart on Monday morning and arrive back late Friday evening.

On the day of leaving school, the children MUST bring breakfast and a packed lunch for Monday to enjoy on the coach.

ALL other food will be provided. Dietary requirements will be catered for.

Children will choose who to share their rooms with before going.

There will be an online form for parents to complete before we leave to share dietary requirements and information about your child with Culmington Manor. The packing list will be sent out in September/October.

By October 2026, this trip should have been paid for in FULL. We will hold a full meeting in the Autumn term to discuss the residential trip and go through everything in more detail then.

UNIFORM

- Uniform is worn at St Francis of Assisi to develop a sense of pride in being a member of the school community. It is expected that all children will wear the school uniform. All uniform should be **clearly labelled** with your child's name and if not an adult at school will label them with a permanent marker.

Boys

- black/dark grey trousers (or shorts in summer)
- white shirt **with school tie**/ polo shirt
- school sweatshirt or fleece

Girls

- black/dark grey trousers/skirt/pinafore
- white shirt **with school tie**/polo shirt
- purple gingham dress (summer)
- school sweatshirt/cardigan

PE Kit

- Plain white top for PE
- Plain black shorts
- Plain black Jogging bottoms may be worn when PE is outside and the weather is colder.
- Trainers for outside PE
- St Francis school jumper, fleece or PE hoody.

- Shoes should be black and appropriate for school i.e. not boots, trainers, high heels, flip flops etc.
- No jewellery can be worn, except small stud earrings (which must be removed or covered for PE)

PASTORAL SUPPORT

At St Francis, we believe that children need to feel happy and settled in order to learn well. We also recognise that there may be times when they might feel worried, sad or anxious – particularly in the wake of coronavirus and returning to 'normal' home and school life.

Over the last couple of years we have worked hard to establish a well-trained and approachable Wellness Team who are experienced in dealing with a wide range of issues around mental health and bereavement (including family breakdowns) for both children and adults. They are available each day for chats, and we have a special drop-in room staffed twice a week at lunchtimes for 'drop-ins'. Staff continually talk to children about how to access this support.

Wellbeing in the school is co-ordinated by Miss Ali Wakefield as part of her PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) co-ordinator role.

We also have highly trained ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) who work on a referral basis

Additionally, have two independent Parent Support Advisor, Rowena and Marcie, to help you with any issues or difficulties you may be facing.

If you or your child feel that you would benefit from any support, please do ask!

PUPIL PREMIUM

What Is It?

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding.

This means that your child can have free school meals, that there will be help towards their first school uniform, and that all school trips (excluding residential ones) will be paid for. Funding also allows school to arrange extra teaching and learning support and equipment for your child.

Pupil Premium funding also means that – should we experience another Covid outbreak and school closures happen again – your child will continue to receive weekly food vouchers and will be prioritised for a school place.

How Can I Claim It?

- You can apply for Pupil Premium funding if you receive any of the following benefits:
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Mrs Furness is very happy to discuss and help you with applying for Pupil Premium funding – just make an appointment.

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

- Newsletters – Weekly What's On and RE Newsletters.
- Our Website
- E-mails
- WisePay



Please make sure we have your most up-to-date contact information! Just visit the office if you need to update something!

YOUR CONCERNS



If something is worrying you or you have concerns about anything please let us know. We are here to help.

- Arrange a meeting with us
- Send an e-mail to your child's class teacher
- Write a note in your child's School Diary
- Phone the school and leave a message



DEVELOPING RESILIENCE IN PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN

- **There are points in the school year where your child may experience a disappointment or setback.**

- **Although this is sometimes upsetting for them, there are practical things you can do to support their emotional development through managing these feelings.**

DO

Listen and acknowledge your child's feelings.
Comfort and support them (without saying that you will fix the problem).
Remind them that challenges and disappointments are a part of life and the important thing is how we deal with them
Seek clarification if needed from school

TRY TO AVOID

Minimalising how they are feeling
Reinforcing the "fairness" narrative by blaming others – focus on helping them to manage their emotions.
Jumping to conclusions about how or why the disappointment occurred, or reacting immediately to try to fix the problem – this is hard when your child is upset but remember we are their front line role models for their future choices

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARENT TEACHER AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (PTFA)







The PTFA is a small group of parents, friends and staff who join together to raise money to buy special things for our school. We organise several events during the year and would love it if you could get involved – no offer of help / support is ever too small!

We have contributed or paid for the following items around our school but we'd love to offer more – for this to happen we need more volunteers! If you would like to join our happy team, please see Emily Palmer in the office to pass on your contact details. Thank you!

PTFA funded projects

We have contributed or paid for the following items around our school (including air-conditioning!) but we'd love to offer more – for this to happen we need more volunteers!













ANY QUESTIONS?

Please do not hesitate to email any queries you may have.
We will get back to you as soon as we can.
To help us out, please include both of your child's class teachers in any emails.

6SB:

- rsanders8fra@nsix.org.uk
- amendham6nrx@nsix.org.uk

6HD:

- khinings9lr7@nsix.org.uk
- tdowning7ern@nsix.org.uk

