



Curriculum Information

Grade 6

ENGLISH

Find out what your child will be taught in Grade 6 English and support their learning at home so they feel confident in their skills, ready for the move to secondary school.

Literacy will still focus on the three areas of:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and listening

This year, the children will be working on stories, poetry and non-fiction and concentrating on one or more of the following areas:

- Different genres
- Significant authors
- Short stories with flashbacks
- Biography and autobiography
- Journalism
- Persuasive writing
- Poetic imagery

Reading in Grade 6 – your child will be:

- Interpreting characters, themes and points of view
- Understanding that words can have different meanings in different contexts
- Understanding how authors use structure and language to create a tone
- Reading classic novels
- Interpreting non-fiction and identifying a point of view
- Comparing writers from different times or parts of the world

Most children in Grade 6 will be confident readers, so the emphasis is very much on comprehension and interpretation. Teachers are encouraging children to read a wide range of material, and develop their own reading tastes. For children who are still struggling, support should be in place, and it's important that they still be encouraged to enjoy books through hearing them read aloud. Your child may be expected to keep a reading journal, making a note of the books they read, and their comments, or they could take part in a reading group.

Try this at home:

- *Choose a classic novel to read together – even fluent readers can struggle with longer books so reading together can help bring it to life*
- *If you have younger children, suggest your older one reads to them. It will help with their reading aloud and expression*
- *Use technology – downloads and apps could inspire reluctant readers to try new authors*

Writing in Grade 6 – your child will be:

- Developing more complex characters and settings
- Experimenting with time and structure
- Using paragraphs in longer stories
- Using direct and reported speech
- Understanding the difference between the active and passive voice
- Adapting writing styles to suit the audience
- Using the conditional

- Experimenting with non-fiction through journalism, biography and autobiography

Grade 6 children are usually confident writers, able to express their ideas imaginatively and clearly, whether they are working on fiction, non-fiction or poetry.

Try this at home:

- *If your school has a newspaper or magazine, encourage your child to take part – they could write about a hobby or school club.*
- *Encourage your child to put together a yearbook for the end of primary school – include stories, pictures and interviews with pupils and teachers*
- *Suggest your child keeps a diary and writes in it regularly*

Speaking and listening in Grade 6 – your child will be:

- Devising performances for particular audiences
- Analysing performances by others
- Taking part in group discussions looking at ideas of conflict and resolution
- Offering and accepting constructive criticism
- Explaining how a speech can alter, depending on the audience

Drama, performance and group discussions are all used to develop communication skills and support reading and writing. The children will be working with scripts, improvising their own plays, and working in groups to produce work or debate issues.

Try this at home:

- *When your child sees a film or reads a book, encourage them to retell the story in as much detail as possible*
- *Ask their opinion on current affairs or events at school*
- *If your child enjoys the drama work in class, look for an after-school or holiday club they could join*

MATHS

Your child might be becoming quite the whiz with numbers by now. Find out how their maths knowledge will be developed in Grade 6.

Grade 6 maths will include new work and revision of earlier topics. Children should be working on three-step problems now, using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They are encouraged to work independently, deciding themselves on the best method of solving a problem, and then estimating their results and checking to see if they are correct. Revision will help to prepare them for KS2 SATs and secondary school – if they do not have a grasp of certain mathematical methods now, children struggle to move on to the next step. Maths is taught through mental, practical and written lessons, and where possible, the children are shown how it links to other areas of the curriculum, such as science or ICT, as well as everyday life.

Grade 6 maths – your child will be:

Counting, partitioning and calculating

- Ordering, partitioning and rounding numbers to three decimal places
- Looking at positive and negative integers
- Solving problems involving time, money or measures
- Explaining their methods, reasoning and results
- Multiplying decimal numbers
- Working with fractions and percentages
- Simplifying and ordering fractions
- Calculating square numbers
- Using the correct mathematical symbols
- Using a calculator correctly
- Working with prime numbers smaller than 100

Shape

- Classifying 2D shapes and 3D solids
- Making and drawing shapes accurately

- Identifying and describing parallel and perpendicular faces and edges
- Using a protractor to measure and draw angles
- Calculating the sum of angles in a triangle
- Learning about the rotation, translation and reflection of shapes
- Calculating perimeter and area
- Using co-ordinates to draw shapes
- Understanding that 360 degrees is a complete turn

Measuring

- Estimating and weighing or measuring accurately
- Converting units of measurement, e.g. metres to centimetres
- Interpreting measurements on a range of instruments
- Comparing readings on different instruments

Data handling

- Drawing and interpreting tables, bar charts and line graphs
- Using ICT to present results
- Interpreting pie charts
- Understanding probability
- Calculating the mean, median and mode averages

Try this at home

- *When your child has homework, ask them to explain their methods. It will help both of you to get a clear idea of what's expected*
- *Encourage your child not to be afraid to ask for help from the teacher if something is proving particularly tricky*
- *If you're going on a journey, ask your child to look at a map and try to work out the distance you'll be travelling and the direction you'll take*
- *For practice with money, try a game of Monopoly*

SCIENCE

Your guide to what your child's Grade 6 teacher will cover in science lessons.

This is the final year of the Key Stage 2 science curriculum and the main areas are still:

- Life processes and living things
- Materials and their properties
- Physical processes

Grade 6 will be studying topics from the list below, possibly for the first time. However, they may also be returning to a topic to study it in greater detail, or as revision in preparation for testing. Science is a practical subject so the children will learn about health and safety risks as they conduct experiments, and there is also a focus on developing their skills of 'scientific enquiry' which includes the two main areas:

Ideas and evidence

- Explaining how living and non-living things work
- Thinking about the links between cause and effect
- The importance of testing ideas using evidence

Investigative skills

- Planning
- Obtaining and presenting evidence
- Drawing conclusions and explaining results

Science in Grade 6 – what your child will learn:

Life processes and living things

Humans and other animals

- Nutrition: why we need food and a healthy diet
- Care of our teeth
- Circulation: how the heart pumps blood around our bodies; how exercise affects our pulse rate

- Movement: how our skeleton and muscles help us and some animals to move
- Growth and reproduction: the human life cycle
- Health: the importance of exercise; harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and drugs

Life processes and living things

Green plants

- How growth is affected by light, air, water and temperature
- What roots do
- How leaves help a plant to grow
- Parts of a flower
- Life cycle: pollination; seed formation and dispersal; germination
- Identification and grouping of plants and animals
- Living things in their environment: how plants and animals adapt to their habitat; food chains; micro-organisms

Materials and their properties

- Comparing materials according to various criteria
- Thermal insulators
- Electrical conductors
- Rocks and soils
- Differences between solids, liquids and gases
- Changes to materials when they are mixed, heated or cooled
- Temperature
- Evaporation and condensation
- How to separate particles, for example, by sieving or filtering

Physical processes

Electricity

- Building a simple circuit
- How to make a light dimmer or brighter

- Drawing a circuit

Forces and motion

- Magnets
- Gravity
- Friction
- Pushing and pulling
- How to measure force

Light and sound

- Properties of light, including reflection and shadow
- How we need light to see
- Sound and vibration
- Pitch and volume

Sun, Earth and moon

- Day and night
- How the sun moves
- Orbits of the Earth and moon

Try this at home

- *Growing plants from seed is always fun – try growing cress on cotton wool to get a good look at germination. It should grow in a week so results are fast; also try putting some a different batch in a dark place and see what happens*
- *Show your child how their pulse rate changes after exercise by taking their pulse, asking them to run around the garden, jump up and down or dance around the living room and then taking it again.*
- *If your child has a magnifying glass or microscope, go on a nature walk and encourage them to look at different plants and flowers*
- *Look at the sky at bedtime, and point out how the moon changes shape as it orbits the Earth*

- *If you see a sundial, explain how the sun and shadow can be used to tell the time*
- *Make potions together in the kitchen from edible ingredients such as coffee, sugar, flour and salt (no cleaning products!) and see which dissolve in water*