



It was lovely to welcome the children back to school after the Christmas break; we hope that you have all enjoyed the festivities and time together with your families and friends. This term is a very busy and important term. It is the final term in which to prepare Year 6 as fully as possible for their tests in May; they will be working very hard and will benefit greatly from any additional support that can be offered at home. Maximum effort from the children (supported by both teachers and parents) during this period as well as good attendance can have a significant impact upon the results achieved.



There are many ways in which you can support your child. Firstly, by making sure that your child is fully equipped and prepared for learning. **Please check that your child:**

- **Completes homework** on time and brings it back to school on the correct day
- **reads daily**, records this in the reading record book and discusses their reading
- continues to use their **Spelling Journal** to practise at home.
- Has their **pencil case** in school each day, equipped with their, pen, pencils, ruler, rubber and a glue stick if possible.

Danes Class Spring Term 2022



PE will continue to take place on Mondays and Fridays. We will also continue with our daily mile, so it is important that trainers are in school every day. **Swimming** will take place on Tuesdays; please ensure your child remembers their kit.

Natural History Museum Trip

We have a trip to the **Natural History Museum** planned on **Wednesday 2nd February 2022**. This will support our learning in both Geography and Science.

Website

Please remember to check Danes class page on our school website to find lots of information about our learning in school.

Key Stage 2 Tests – YEAR SIX

Year 6 children will be taking their tests during the **week beginning 9th May**. Please take time to look at the PowerPoint presentation on our class page of the website for further information about these assessments.

<https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/KS2-SATs-Information-for-Parents-2022.pdf>

Homework

The arrangements for homework in Danes class are changing slightly this term. Our aims are to:

- ensure that the Year 6 children are prepared as fully as possible for their tests in May
- to establish good routines before their move to secondary school.

By setting different homework tasks on different days and asking for work to be handed in at different times, we hope that the children will get used to planning their time carefully and organising themselves to have the appropriate tasks completed by different deadlines.

The table outlines the new arrangements for weekly homework.

Homework Timetable

Subject	Day Set	Due In
English	Monday	Friday
Grammar (Y6 only)	Thursday	Tuesday
Maths	Friday	Thursday

Homework projects will continue to be set half-termly (see separate sheet). We have been so impressed by the range of work produced by the children last term and are looking forward to seeing what they produce next!

Curriculum

We have an exciting term of learning ahead with many links being made between learning in different areas of the curriculum.

English: We will begin by reading 'Stone Girl Bone Girl' and 'The Fossil Girl' both of which tell the story of palaeontologist Mary Anning. Many aspects of grammar will be taught which will then be applied in biographical writing and a first-person narrative. Later in the term, we will look at discussion writing when we consider the opposing views about the theories of Charles Darwin.

Maths: Areas of learning will include division; algebra; 2D and 3D shape; percentages; area, perimeter and volume and fractions. Year six will be well-prepared for their SATs assessments next term through regular practise of key skills and test questions.

Science: Evolution and Inheritance – including the work of Mary Anning, Charles Darwin and Jean Baptiste Lamarck.

Geography: Extreme Earth – a study of natural disasters

History: Later in the term, we will begin our learning about the Mayan civilization.

Art: We will be looking at the human form (body, proportion, action).

Music: We Will Rock You

PSHE: Our focus is 'Our World'. We will be considering human rights, citizenship and the importance of caring for our world.

RE: Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?

PE: Gymnastics and swimming