

UPPER KEY STAGE 2 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - SPRING TERM 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the term now underway we would like to take this opportunity to say 'Happy New Year' and we hope that you enjoyed the festive holiday period.

Last term was very busy and the children performed brilliantly throughout the term. With this in mind we cannot wait to get started on another term. Our topics for this term are called "Sun, Moon and Stars" and "The Magic of Harry Potter". This first half term, we will be lifting off to space to look at our universe and the planets, moons and stars that are in it. We will then follow this by using Harry Potter by JK Rowling as our inspiration which includes our very exciting visit to the Warner Bros Studios. More details regarding the topics are available in our curriculum maps, which can be downloaded from our school website.

Year 5 and 6 Life Saving Roadshow

We are very happy to be able to offer this to the children and the skills that they learn in these sessions will hopefully stay with them for life. These will take place on **29th January and 5th of February** for the year 6 children and **5th and 12th of March** for our year 5.

Trips and Visitors

On **Thursday 22nd January**, all of our Year 5/6 children will be taking part in an immersive, interactive online show which catapults children into a space-themed STEM adventure, blending the thrill of space exploration with the crucial role the UK Space Industry is playing in combating the climate crisis. Playing the role of aspiring space engineers and scientists, the pupils decide the path of an Earth Observation mission, navigating orbiting satellites and discovering a few surprises on the way! Please note, there is no cost to parents for this experience.

To go with our Harry Potter inspired topic next half term, we have organised a trip to The Making of Harry Potter Tour at Warner Bros Studios for **Friday 20th March**. Thank you to those who have given your consent and paid the cost of the trip so far. Payments and consent can still be made via the School Gateway App and the full payment of £37.50 must be made by **Friday 1st March**. If you are unable to make a contribution towards the trip, please discuss this with Mrs Hewer in the school office. We will **leave school promptly at 8:30am on the 20th March - children must arrive in school no later than 8.10am for registration and will access their classrooms via the school front entrance**. The children should wear school uniform on the day and they will also need a packed lunch - full details of the trip including timings etc will be sent to you closer to the date.

Year 6 Residential Trip

We are very excited that this trip is getting closer and closer. Please can you make sure that all remaining balances are paid in full using the School Gateway App before we depart for what will be an extremely exciting and rewarding few days for our Year 6 pupils. There will be a Year 6 Hilltop Meeting before the February half-term holiday for all parents and pupils and further information on the exact date for this will be sent out closer to the time. **A quick reminder of the trip dates: Monday 8th June – Friday 12th June. NOTE: The full balance is due no later than 27th March 2026.**

PE Kits

Each PE lesson we constantly have to remind children that they should have a FULL PE Kit in school at all times. They need; a plain white T-shirt, burgundy shorts and trainers for indoor PE. The weather throughout January, February and March can be very wet and cold so it is imperative that the children have a tracksuit for outdoor PE. This could be a school tracksuit, or alternatively, something warm and practical. We will be on the field and if the children do not have the appropriate footwear they will not be able to partake. **Spare socks for the girls who wear tights are also a good idea.**

Also, following Essex Local Authority guidance, children must take out their own earrings before PE. Unfortunately we are not able to assist them with this so if they are unable to take them out independently they will need to miss that session. Alternatively, please could they be taken out before school on a PE day.

School Uniform

Just a quick note to remind parents that our school uniform policy states that pupils should wear **black shoes** to school as part of their school uniform. These should be black in the entirety. Please could you also ensure that your child is not wearing excessive or expensive jewellery to school unless for religious purposes.

Homework

Our latest 'Enrichment homework' includes some lovely activities covering a range of subjects – hopefully there will be something to appeal to all! Many of you joined us on our last open afternoon to view and celebrate all of the brilliant work produced. This is very popular with the children and having the opportunity to have feedback and praise from their peers is always very special. With that in mind, please encourage your child to complete a task (we are more than happy for work to be a joint effort between pupils and adults). Once again, this term you are invited to view all work produced and this will be on show in the hall at our open afternoon on **Tuesday 24th February** (the school hall will be open until 7pm to allow parents to visit in the evening).

SATs dates

A very important part of the school diary for the Year 6's are the national SATs assessments. These will happen during the **week beginning Monday 11th May 2026**. Please try to keep the time leading up to this week as relaxing as possible for the children. There will be a meeting closer to the time where all parents of year 6 children will be invited in to discuss the SATs and how to support your children as well as answer any questions you may have.

Thank you all for your continued support and please feel free to come to discuss any questions or concerns with any of our team.

The Year 5/6 Team