

Term 3 parent consultations: Preparing my child for Year 6

Preparing for Year 6 can be a big step for any child, as it marks the transition to their final year in primary school before moving on to secondary education. It is important that the children begin to take more responsibility for their own learning thus making them more independent and prepared for Year 7. As a parent, there are several things you can do to support your child in their preparation for Year 6.

Here are a number of resources to support and consolidate your child's learning at home:

Times tables and number bonds

By Year 6, children should be fluent with number bonds and all times tables. These skills are the fundamentals of Maths and will support the children in many areas of the Year 5 and 6 curriculum.

- <https://www.timestables.com/worksheets/>

Lots of printable times table sheets on here.

- www.timestables.co.uk

There is a wealth of resources on here to

- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Good for times tables and number bonds

- <https://play.ttrockstars.com>

(Contact me directly for your child's login details)

- <https://play.ttrockstars.com/numbots/dashboard>

(An extension of TTRS but concentrates on number bonds. Same login details as TTRS)

- <https://timestables.ninja/>

Spellings

In class, children will be working on various spelling words and spelling patterns. Children can use the links below, at home, to practise and we will complete spelling activities in school.

https://cdn.oxfordowl.co.uk/2019/08/29/13/56/09/5a42eb6a-f57f-4dc4-a66e-bd4c5e27e4b7/SpellingWordList_Y5-6.pdf

Please note: This is the Year 5 AND 6 list of words which they are expected to know by the end of Year 6.

As well as these, it is important that children are able to spell the 100/200 high frequency words.

<https://www.highfrequencywords.org/hfw100fp.pdf>

<https://www.highfrequencywords.org/hfw200fp.pdf>

 [t2-e-1548-homophones-word-mat-_ver_6.pdf](#)

Below is a great website where you can set up a set of words (from the above lists) and share a link with your child. They can then complete a range of games and activities which focuses on the words you have inputted.

<https://www.spellingtraining.com/>

Reading

As ever, it is still important that your child continues to read, both alone and to you, as much as possible. It is never too late to develop a love of reading. Spend time finding the best books for your child. Here are some lists which may inspire your child's book choice. *Please note: most of these books are available in the library, however not all are available therefore it will be up to you to find the remaining if you wish to do so.*

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/suggested-reading-list-for-year-5-pupils-ks2-age-9-10/>

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/year5>

https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/collection/100_books_to_read_before_you_leave_primary_school/-186493?offset=0

Top tip: Echo reading - Read a page/ paragraph to your child and ask them to copy you. This is great for practising expression and intonation.

Child-friendly newspapers: <https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/>

As teachers, we always encourage children to read a wide-range of genres, including newspapers. This is a paid subscription which you can sign up to at home and access it digitally.

For practising comprehension skills, below is a folder full of comprehensions which you may find useful for your child.

We advise that parents read over these beforehand to ensure you are happy with the content.

 Home comprehensions

Maths arithmetic, extensions and challenges:

<https://myminimaths.co.uk/year-6-mini-maths/>

This is a great resource which gives you an idea of what to expect in Maths, next year. It is worth noting that a lot of the Year 6 Maths curriculum builds on the skills that have been taught in Year 5. You will also find a 'Year 6 Arithmetic' tab which gives you an idea of the type of arithmetic questions children will be expected to answer.

Websites and resources that may be useful for problem solving practice

● Challenge ME past papers

[Click here](#) to access the Challenge ME questions from 2024-25. As the competition is only in its second year, there's only one set of past paper questions. When you click the link, you'll see options for Bands 1 to 5:

Year 3 and 4 = Band 5

Year 5 and 6 = Band 4

Year 7 and 8 = Band 3

The first few pages are the questions from the first round of last year's competition. Scroll down through the pages to locate the second round questions from last year. Scroll further to locate Stage 3 (semi-final) and further again to locate the questions from last year's final (Stage 4).

● Mathematical Association

First Maths Challenge (Year 3 and 4) past papers – [click here](#)
Primary Maths Challenge (Year 5 and 6) past papers – [click here](#)

- **White Rose Maths – Questions of the Day**

There are several years of questions [stored here](#).

- **Kangaroo Maths past papers**

The International Kangaroo Maths Competition (IKMC) is another annual competition which takes place all over the world in schools. They have a bank of their past papers [saved here](#). You need to scroll quite far down until you get to a grey bar which says 'download past papers'. Press 'English', then the different folders contain numbers in brackets relating to year groups i.e. Ecolier (Classes 3-4) if for Year 3 and Year 4 pupils.

- **Gareth Metcalfe resources**

[This website](#) provides a range of different resources and the 'Problem Solving' section often comes recommended. There is a LKS2 (Year 3 and 4) section and also an UKS2 (Year 5 and 6) section. There is a cost for this resource but it provides you with some samples for free.

- **White Rose Maths – Bar model questions**

Some of the more complex problem solving questions can often be represented using what is termed a 'bar model'. A bar model will not solve the problem, but it will create a representation and structure to help a mathematician process a problem. You will find several year's worth of [examples here](#) – just scroll down the page until you find them.

- **Real logic puzzles**

At DESS, we have had a big push on logic puzzles, making lots available at lunch times. In the Challenge ME maths competition final (24-25) they used physical logic puzzles as part of one of the challenges! There are hundreds of varieties of these available to purchase on the internet - all great fun to learn and practice. Typing 'logic puzzles' into Temu will provide lots!

- **Bebras past papers**

This is a computational thinking challenge / competition but there are so many connections to maths and practising these questions will certainly develop a child's problem solving abilities. [Here](#), you can find the past papers which are split into different age groups.

- **Kenken puzzles**

At the 2024-25 Challenge ME final, there was also a Kenken puzzle to complete. [This website](#) is the official site and you can create your own Kenken puzzles, but unfortunately it seems to stop for a couple of days after you've downloaded a few and does have a lot of ads!

A couple more websites which have been recommended by other schools, but not tried and tested ourselves at DESS:

- **Open Middle**

Some of the content on [this website](#) looks good for additional practice. It might just require a bit of searching around the site.

- **Transum**

[This website](#) looks to also have some useful things. The 'puzzles' section has a huge bank of different types. There's also an 'investigations' section which might be worth exploring.

Writing

This gives you an idea of what is required in Year 6 writing and how you can support this:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/english/primary-writing/writing-year-6-age-10-11/>

One of the most important aspects of Year 6 writing is the inclusion of spelling punctuation and grammar features. This link is an excellent parent guide which explains all of the grammar rules from Year 1 through to Year 6.

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/pelham-primary-school/UploadedDocument/f5fac1dae55a4cd49a0d8bc89a01e2ef/parents-guide-to-spag.pdf>

<https://www.pobble365.com/>

Another brilliant website which offers a different picture every day. Each picture has a writing stimulus with various other tasks for the children to complete. Worksheets can be downloaded from here as a PDF.

https://www.onceuponapicture.co.uk/portfolio_page/morning-surprise/

Very similar to pobble365.

Science at home

<https://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/>

Here is a great website with ideas of experiments which can be done at home.

<https://www.weareteachers.com/easy-science-experiments/>

More experiments can be found here.

<https://sciencebob.com/category/experiments/>

Not all of these are appropriate for home but you may find some useful.