

Octopus Class

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely Summer holiday and enjoyed time with your families and friends. The children have started the year with a positive attitude and are already showing what brilliant role models they will be this year. Although Year 6 will be full of hard work and lots of learning, we also have lots of exciting opportunities and events along the way. Our topic for the first half term is 'What can the census tell us about local areas?' and in Autumn 2, it is 'Why does our population change?'.

We are in the process of allocating year 6 jobs to the children and will let you know them as soon as possible. This morning we listened to some wonderful presentations from our prospective Head Boys and Head Girls; they were amazing and incredibly thoughtful.

If at any time you have any concerns or queries then please do not hesitate to speak to me after school or contact me through the school office. We will continue to keep you updated on Class Dojo and can't wait to share the fun things we will be doing this year!

Many thanks,

Mrs Smith



Reading

Reading books and diaries should be brought into school each day. Children should inform an adult when their reading book needs changing.

Although your child is now in Year 6, it is still important to hear them read at home. We understand that the children will also have times when they read to themselves. If this is the case, we ask that you question them on what they have read as this will support the development of their comprehension skills.

All Martock children are asked to read at least 4 times a week at home. Please record this in their diaries.

PE



Our P.E. days are Monday and Wednesday. Please make sure your child has the correct P.E kit, this consists of a plain white t-shirt, black shorts and daps/trainers.

This should be left in school during the week. As we may be going outside, please make sure your child has a plain black jumper and tracksuit bottoms. Please make sure all PE kit is clearly named. Children need to remove all jewellery for PE. If children cannot remove their earrings they can be taped over during PE sessions. Any children with long enough hair need to have it tied up for PE sessions.

Homework

Homework for year 6 includes reading and CPG targeted question books. The children will be given three homework books: maths, reading comprehension and SPaG linked to what we have been working on in class. They will be given set pages to complete for the week; the page numbers will be recorded in their diaries. Homework will be given out on a Friday and will be expected in on or before the following Friday.

Useful Websites

BBC Education have produced a whole host of materials for KS2. Follow the KS2 link and then select either Maths or English. Some aspects require a subscription.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

A site with both Maths and English based quizzes which are marked as you go along.

<http://www.educationquizzes.com/ks2/maths>

Okehampton

Our school residential is from Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th November 2026 at YHA Bracken Tor, Okehampton.

We will be sending out more information soon about this, including kit lists, medical forms and meal choices. There will also be an after-school meeting (date and time to be confirmed) where you can find out more information and ask any questions.

We are really excited about this wonderful opportunity and can't wait for the children to experience the super activities on offer.

Autumn Term 2026

Maths

We will be covering:

- Place Value, Addition and Subtraction
- Decimals and Fractions (A)
- Algebra
- Multiplication and Division
- Decimals and Fractions (B)
- Shape

English

Each week we will have a SPaG (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) focus as well as a constant cycle of revision and practice of SPaG terminology and questions. We also have dedicated Guided Reading and comprehension lessons to help build confidence with answering questions about different texts.

In our Reading lessons, we will be focussing on *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick. In our English lessons we will be using the book *'The Templeton Twins have an idea'* by Ellis Weiner as a stimulus for our writing.

Art - Autumn 1 - Painting the world in watercolour

We will be choosing and combining different ideas or influences in thoughtful ways and generating ideas that show a personal response or creative intention.

DT - Autumn 2 - Textiles - Bags

Designing pattern pieces, making a bag for a specific user and thinking about aesthetics and functionality.

PSHE: Jigsaw -

Being Me in My World: We will be thinking about how our choices can have an impact on people in our immediate community and globally.

Changing Me: We will be thinking about changes they see in themselves and others

RE - This term we will be focussing on Islam and Christianity, asking the questions: What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God? and What would Jesus do?

History - Autumn 1 - What can the census tell us about local areas? We will be focusing on understanding the purpose and creation of a census, creating questions using sources, exploring jobs available in the past, make inferences about lifestyles in the 1900s, investigating the life of Evelyn Dove and conducting an enquiry about my local area.

Geography - Autumn 2 - Why does our population change? We will be focusing on understanding the change and distribution of global population, defining birth and death rates and exploring why they change, recognising the push and pull factors that influence migration, understanding the impact climate change can have on the population, collecting our own data and conducting a field study.

Science - Animals including humans

This term we will be looking at Animals, including humans, with a focus on how different parts of the body work. We will start by looking at the components of blood then move on to learning about the heart, the circulatory system and how nutrients are transported around the body.

Electricity - We will also be learning about Electricity and recognising the functions of different parts of a circuit. We will also be drawing circuits using the correct symbols.

PE

Our focus in PE will be Netball, Swimming, Gymnastics and Basketball.

Music

Autumn 1 - Music and technology

Autumn 2 - Developing ensemble skills

Computing - Making Music - The children will initially focus on addressing, before they move on to the makeup and structure of data packets.

Creating Media - Webpage Creation - The children will identify what makes a good web page and use this information to design and evaluate their own website using Google Sites. Throughout the process the children will pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the aesthetics of the site, and navigation paths.