

When in Year 6 ...

In their final year at St Catherine's, the children are taught and prepared for secondary school by Mr Ryan (Teacher) and Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant). In Year 6, children are expected to develop greater independence.

In early autumn, the children enjoy a week's residential visit to Blackland Farm, an outward bounds activity centre where children enjoy a range of adventurous pursuits: climbing, abseiling, zip-wires, archery and even grass sledging. Children learn to take risks, and this in turn develops confidence. But it's not all adrenaline-fuelled fun! Children also take responsibility for the day-to-day tasks such as making their own lunch, washing dishes and cleaning communal areas. Once back in school, children use their growing independence to contribute to school life by helping teachers organise their classrooms at lunchtimes, organising presentations during assembly and taking an active role in the Sports Crew.



Reading, reading and more reading! With a well-stocked classroom library, children are spoilt for choice. A range of books are available and new books are added every half-term. The confident Year 6 reader has moved beyond simple chapter books (no more David Walliams, or Diary of a Wimpy Kid) and we expect children to challenge themselves by reading books from a range of genres. Children read independently in school every day and a further 30 minutes at home ensures they are prepared for secondary school. Above all, we want children to enjoy reading.



Each week, children complete a topic related task to practise skills gained in class and broaden their general knowledge. Several maths tasks are set online using the Mathematics website. Children should already know their times tables, but they can maintain their recall using the Times Table Rockstars website.

Tests are held in May for Maths, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, and Reading. While these are an important part of the year, the children enjoy a range of activities designed to increase their knowledge and stimulate their imaginations. Through carefully planned drama, they travel back to World War II, trek across the Antarctic and develop their own theme park. This leads to engaging and purposeful writing.

Towards the end of the year, the children attend a retreat, where they reflect on their time at St Catherine's, and prepare for their secondary education.

At the end of the year, a Leavers' Service is held during which children share their memories, and both staff and parents gather to celebrate their time at St Catherine's.