



Nansloe Academy & Nursery

Head of School: Mrs L Swiggs

9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you had an enjoyable and restful festive break with your children! They have settled back well and seem optimistic about the challenges to come.

Topic

We have two topics in Year 6 this term. up to half term, the children will learn about the Kingdom of Benin, an ancient West- African civilisation. This fascinating topic will give them insight into a different culture and offer a different perspective of the British Empire to last term's Second World War topic. After half term, they will learn about the Galapagos in a science based topic called 'Evolution and Inheritance'. They will learn about how these fascinating islands were made and how they became populated with such an unusual selection of creatures and plants.

Reading

The children will read two key texts in school linked to their topics. First, they will read 'Children of the Benin Kingdom' by Dinah Orji which is a fascinating tale of a young girl who travels deep into the rainforest and discovers the ancient kingdom and connects with her past. After half term, they will read 'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin which will take them on a journey to the Galapagos Islands with Charles Darwin himself. Although a work of fiction, this text is filled with historical accuracy which makes it incredibly immersive.

Homework

On Friday next week, the children will receive their homework books. There are three: 1 for maths, 1 for reading and 1 for punctuation and grammar. These are intended to be a supportive resource which will help them to revise key skills in the run up to the SATs tests in May. The books are called '10 minute tests' but, for most children, they will take a bit longer than that to complete. I'd recommend that no longer than half an hour be spent on each book – they should feel productive and not a burden. If your child has any questions they need help with, feel free to work with them or, if you prefer, encourage them to highlight the question they are unsure of and bring the book in to school – an adult will be happy to support them. Please ensure your child brings their books in to school every Friday so they can be marked. Additionally, the children still need to be reading as much as possible – it makes the biggest difference!

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SATs club

On the most recent clubs list, you will have noticed I am running a SATs club every Thursday. This is a really important part of Year 6 and, year on year, we have close to 100% uptake from the Year 6 children. We will go over key skills and concepts, revise strategies the children find tricky and generally offer support with anything they need. These clubs are far more enjoyable than they sound – there are usually a selection of snacks; other teachers often come to help out; and they develop a feeling of calm, positive collaboration for the children.

We hugely appreciate the support parents offer in terms of ensuring their children's attendance.

London

Huge thanks for the positivity and uptake! Mrs Swiggs and I are in the process of booking activities and finalising plans. I am excited to share these with you next Thursday in our meeting which will start at 4:00pm after SATs club. Your children are welcome to attend with you if you wish.

Thanks again for all you do to support us.

Mr Perry