

Autumn Term 2018
September 3rd 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back for another year!

I hope that you have enjoyed the extended break with your lovely children and appreciated the sunshine!

This newsletter is designed to help you settle as quickly as possible into life in Year 6.

Organisation

Year 6 is an important year where we develop many of the skills that will be essential for your next big journey - secondary school!

With this in mind we place a strong emphasis on the children taking ownership of their own learning, including making sure they are prepared for school every day. I would ask that they are responsible for their own homework, letters, jumpers and PE kits. They need to ensure they bring in and take home their reading books daily and that they have the correct PE kit in school at all times. Children need to ensure they have their homework on the stated days. If there are exceptional circumstances meaning that homework is not completed, please send a note in with your child so I can be clear about the reasons.

HOMEWORK

This year, after consultation with staff, parents and children, homework in years 5 and 6 will run differently. At the start of each term, children will be given a homework booklet. Within this booklet children will find all of the maths, English, science and topic based tasks that they will need to complete within 6/7 weeks. Each task has a specific date to be completed by and will be worked through and marked as a class each Friday PM. This way we can clarify any misconceptions that the children may have. Homework must be brought into school each week on the homework date.

PE/Games

PE sessions will be held weekly on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. All children will be expected to take part in all lessons. If your child is injured and cannot take part in PE then you will need to send in a note with your child.

All PE kits need to be in school from the start of the term and then taken home at regular intervals to be washed. Please make sure that all kit is labelled so that missing kits are easily returned to their owners. We expect all kits to be in school at all times as there are occasions where PE days can change. As our sessions will mix indoor and outdoor activities a full kit is required.

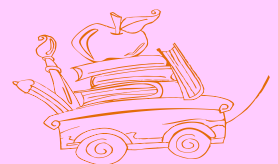
Trips

We will be stimulating our learning with off-site activities. Watch this space for details of our Autumn term trip linked to our topic of 'Marvellous Maps!'

Working in partnership

As a school, we believe passionately that your child's learning best benefits from a positive relationship between us as a school and you as parents and guardians.

With this in mind, please take time to say hello or raise any issues at the end of the school day when the children exit school. I am also contactable through email or Class Dojo or, if you need to speak with me at greater length or in private, I will naturally be happy to arrange a time to do that.



In **English** we will begin our term with an exciting Autobiography and Biography unit of work. We will be looking at the exciting adventures of Bear Grylls, as detailed in his own autobiography, and using this as a model for our own writing. We will have lots of research to do about our lives so far so watch this space for an autobiography homework task! Our unit will conclude with us researching our own explorers to create fascinating biographies to share with our class. We follow this with an exciting narrative unit based on our Marvellous Maps and Explorers topic, using fiction texts written by Bear Grylls as our focus. This will then lead us into our poetry unit to conclude our first term! Term two will see us continue to develop our range of writing skills through our stories from other cultures, our explanation texts and journalistic writing.

Our **Maths** work will build on the work done last year. We will be developing further confidence in calculation using all four operations. In addition we will be working on understanding place value of whole numbers and decimals. . All this work will be put into practice in our problem solving and reasoning morning tasks and our mental arithmetic sessions.

Our **RE** work will begin with our Creation unit of work. We will be considering our roles as co-creators in our 'Creation' unit, moving on to 'Sacraments'. Finally we will enter our 'Advent' unit as we move towards Christmas.

Our **Science** investigations for the Autumn term will focus on 'Living Things and their Habitats' and 'Earth and Space'. Our Living Things unit will focus on the process of reproduction and the life cycles of plants, amphibians, insects and birds. The children will explore reproduction in different plants, including different methods of pollination and asexual reproduction. . Furthermore, the children will find out about Jane Goodall and her work with the now-endangered chimpanzees in Africa. They will explore metamorphosis in insects and amphibians, comparing their life cycles. Finally, the children will explore the life cycles of birds.

After half term our 'Earth and Space' unit will give us a basic overview of Earth and its place in our Solar System.



Our **Topics** this term are 'Marvellous Maps' and 'Our Changing World'. Our 'Marvellous Maps' topic will help us to explore the range of maps available to geographers and to develop their understanding of the key features of maps. They will study a range of maps and atlases, including digital maps, and compare their features. They will learn to use the eight compass points to give directions and give grid references to locate places on a map. By comparing maps of the same place, children will learn about the way that places have changed over time. 'Our Changing World' focuses on discovering some of the many ways in which the world around them is changing, from coastal erosion to political changes.

All of our learning is underpinned by the **Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning** work the pupils engage in.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your family over the year and am very much looking forward to a wonderful year of learning with the new 'Year 6'.

With every good wish,
Miss McCalley

