

Dear parents,

I would like to welcome you all to the new academic year with information about what will be happening in class this term. The children have started life in Year 6 fantastically well, meeting the expectations set upon them and approaching learning with maturity and confidence. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the children during the first week and I am very much looking forward to taking them to Min-Y-Don next week!

As you are aware, the children have the great privilege of owning lockers during their time in Year Six. They have enjoyed using them this week and we are more than happy for them to add pictures from home for personalisation. Just for your awareness, as children are trusted to look after their locker key, there will be a small charge if they become lost. Children will be asked to bring in £5.00 for a replacement to cover costs.

From Monday 19th September, I will begin setting homework for your child to complete. The amount of homework set this year will increase from their time in Year 5. English homework (that will include a set of spellings) will be set every Monday to be handed in by Wednesday, Science or Topic homework will be set on a Wednesday to be handed in by Friday. Maths homework will be set every Friday and will need to be completed over the weekend and be handed in the following Monday. It is imperative that your child completes the tasks provided as it will give them the opportunity to practise key skills and learning taught in class.

Within our English sessions this half term, we will be using the book 'Star of Fear, Star of Hope' as inspiration for writing a range of narratives including letters, diaries and flashbacks. The children will recap on key skills from Year 5 and develop effective vocabulary and grammar to engage the reader. After half term, our focus will move towards report writing. We will be using the text 'Can we save the tiger' by Martin Jenkins to write an informative booklet based on an amazing animal. We will be developing our understanding of using clear organisational features, parenthesis to add extra information effectively and provide well-developed factual information for the reader.

During maths sessions this half term, children we will be focussing on place value including ordering and comparing a range of numbers. Following this, we will work through all four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Strategies will be reinforced to enable children to develop their confidence for greater fluency when tackling arithmetic style questions. After half term, the children will develop and improve their knowledge of fractions. Opportunities for the children to recap on skills learnt throughout Key Stage Two will be continually available through lesson starters and recap sessions.

Throughout the week, I have been listening to children read and have commented in their reading diaries. Regular reading continues to remain a vital skill for developing your child's learning in all areas of the curriculum. Children are expected to read regularly and to comment in their reading record twice a week. Although many will now approach reading with confidence and enthusiasm, it is important that you ask your child lots of questions about their reading to progress comprehension skills, vocabulary knowledge and focus. I would also welcome comments from you after listening to your child read as it will provide me with a greater insight into how they are getting on at home with their reading.

We are amending our teaching of reading in Key Stage Two to a whole class guided reading approach. Children will undertake guided reading with their class teacher on a daily basis rather than reading with their teacher once a week in a group as previous. Reading individually with adults will still take place



on occasions as directed by the class teacher and this will be evidenced in your child's reading record. A summary of the guided reading focus for your child will be included in the weekly update sent to you at the end of each week. Please do support the development of your child's reading by reading to and with your children regularly. We will be holding an after school meeting later this term to outline the importance of reading with your children and giving strategies and tips on how you can do this. Details and dates to follow.

Our topic for this half term is World War II. Children will develop their History and Geography skills within their learning. They will be able to use maps and atlases to locate world's countries with focus on Europe and countries involved in WW2. They will study prominent figures during the war and delve further into their understanding by learning about the Battle of Britain, a significant turning point in British history.

Light is our Science topic this half term. We will be learning about how light travels, how we see and how shadows are formed. Children are welcome to bring in a lab coat and to wear it during these sessions. Over the next half term, we will move our learning towards classifying living things based on similarities and differences.

Physical Education sessions this year will take place on a Friday afternoon with Mrs Moore. The children will be developing their skills in tag rugby and carnival dance. They will need their outdoor P.E. kits to participate in the learning. It is a good idea for children to have their PE kits with them throughout the week in the event of an individual/ one- off lesson.

French will be taught fortnightly by Mrs Potts on Thursdays with French language and vocabulary being reinforced regularly throughout the week when possible. Music will be taught on a Tuesday by Mrs Boarman.

In Art, we will be researching the artist, L.S Lowry and explore Blitz paintings. Children will have the opportunity to sketch key features and paint to create shadows and reflections by selecting appropriate brushes for their backgrounds and foregrounds.

In computing, children will be developing their skills using Microsoft PowerPoint to create a presentation using a variety of features. We will also be recapping and furthering our knowledge of E-Safety. After half term, spreadsheets will be our focus using Microsoft Excel.

If you have any questions, queries or matters regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am usually available before school and at the end of the day.

Here is to a fantastic, joyful, and productive academic year!

Mr Newman

Year 6 Class Teacher

