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YEAR 6 CLASS NEWSLETTER

Friday 7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and welcome to Year 6! I hope you all had a lovely summer break. I am really looking forward to working with my new Year 6 class. We have a busy and exciting year ahead!

This newsletter is to inform you about routines and expectations in Year 6.

I will be the main class teacher and will be in class from Tuesday to Friday. Mrs Pottle will be teaching on Mondays. She will teach science and French in addition to maths and English. On some mornings Mrs Crichton will be working alongside me to provide extra support for the class this year. Mrs McDonald will be the morning class teaching assistant from Monday to Thursdays. On Friday and most afternoons, the pupils will be supported by Mrs Heffernan.

The class will continue to receive chess tuition from Mr Read or Mr Varney on alternate Tuesdays. Mr Read will also be joining us for maths lessons (usually once a week). This may involve supporting the whole class, small groups or individuals.

Arrival

Children can arrive in the classroom from 8.35am and must be there by 8.50am when the register is taken. In Key Stage 2, and especially in Year 6, we encourage pupils to enter the classroom independently. There will be 'Early work' for children to complete which will be written on the classroom board. Year 6 pupils will be asked to carry out some whole school responsibilities and a few of these need to be carried out first thing in the morning so it would be helpful if all pupils were as punctual as possible.

Pencil cases

All pupils in Key Stage 2 will be given a clear plastic pencil case labelled with their name. They will be given a handwriting pen and a pencil to keep in their pencil case. They will also have access to rulers, rubbers, sharpners and colouring pens/pencils. The handwriting pens and pencils will be replaced if they run out but it is important that pupils take responsibility for looking after their pencil case. In Year 6 they may bring in their own pencil case if they prefer but it should be just **one** sensible sized case that they will take full responsibility for. If they wish they may bring in their own blue ink pen for handwriting. No biros please. Year 6

pupils will also be given a purple ink pen which we will call the 'purple pen of progress.' This will be used for editing work, self and peer marking and responding to marking from a teacher.

Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing a full school uniform every day. It is important that pupils wear sensible shoes in order to move around the school and playground safely. We aim to get out in the fresh air everyday so please make sure they bring a waterproof coat in case of rain. Coats should be the only items placed on your child's peg.

P.E / Lockers

All Key stage 2 pupils have a locker. They should keep their P.E kits and any other bags they may need to bring to School (for example clothing for an afterschool club) in their locker. P.E. kits should contain shorts, T-Shirt and trainers. Long trousers/sweatshirts should be worn for outdoor P.E. in cold weather. No jewellery should be worn and long hair should be tied back. P.E. kits should be in school all week and taken home at the end of each week. Indoor P.E. is usually completed in bare feet. Please ensure all P.E. kit is clearly labelled with your child's name. In Year 6 we will usually do indoor P.E on a Friday afternoon. We may be doing outdoor P.E at any other time during the week so please ensure the kits are in school every day.

Homework

All pupils in Key stage 2 will be given a homework book. These books are slightly larger than A4 in size and so homework sheets can be neatly stuck into the books. Please make sure your child completes all written homework within this book (unless for some reason they are specifically requested not to.) If you would like to communicate with me about your child's homework please do so in this book. Homework will either be discussed together in class or marked by myself or one of my teaching assistants. Homework will be set on a Friday and should be completed by the following Thursday. It is very important that all homework books are in School on these days. In order to keep the books neat and tidy we will be asking all pupils to cover their books as part of their first homework activity. Homework may be linked to class maths, English or topic work. We will continue to set regular homework on 'My maths.'

In addition to the set pieces of homework it is expected that Year 6 pupils will be reading regularly at home and practising key spellings and times tables. Mrs Pottle will be doing a multiplication/divisions fact test each Monday and your child will be informed about what they need to practise.

In Year 6 pupils are expected to take a well thought-out and thorough approach to their work. It is important preparation for secondary school that they complete homework independently and on time. I will be expecting the pupils to show good personal organisational skills in all areas this year. Please encourage them to take responsibility for getting themselves ready for school as much as possible.

Food and drink

Year 6 lunchboxes are kept in a trolley in the hall. If your child brings a packed lunch to school they should place it on the trolley in the hall first thing in the morning. If they have a healthy snack for break time they should keep this in their classroom tray. Children are encouraged to keep a named bottle of still water in the classroom.

Class topics, books and activities.

Our first class topic for the autumn term will be 'Oxford mysteries' This topic will allow pupils to find out more about our local area. Please see the attached topic overview for the key areas of learning.

Much of our English work this term will be based around stories. We will share many together in class, sometimes whole stories and sometimes extracts from books that the children may wish to finish reading themselves. Texts will include novels written by local authors Phillip Pullman, Lewis Carroll, C.S Lewis and J.R.R Tolkien. There is no expectation for pupils to purchase their own copies of any particular text but if they are welcome to bring in their own books if they wish.

Finally, we have lots of exciting activities, trips and events planned this year starting with a trip to Oxford Castle on the 3rd October. The day will also include a storytelling themed walking tour of Oxford and a visit to the Museum of Natural history. This term Year 6 will be participating in Forest school. Throughout the year all pupils will be offered the opportunity to participate in cycling proficiency training. Our residential visit to Kilvrough will be in the week beginning the 18th March, with a meeting about it planned for Friday 28th September. Further details about these and other events will follow.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I apologise for the length but I hope it has been useful! Please do pop in and see me if you have any queries and if we haven't yet met then please come and say hello.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Jones