

Dear Parents,

8th September 2016

Welcome to year 6! I hope that your child is settling in to the new classroom well and has enjoyed the first week. I hope the following information about the class and curriculum will be useful.

End of Year Expectation Leaflet

Along with this letter, your child is bringing home a leaflet explaining the end of year 6 expectations for reading, writing and maths. Any help you can provide with supporting your child to meet these expectations is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about the leaflet, please feel free to contact me at school.

Half-term topics

Our topics this half term are Vikings and The Circulatory System. As usual, we will always find time to share any information your child, or someone in the family, wants to bring in.

Ideas for home that you could do together are:

- a. Use these internet sites to find more information:
<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/vikings.html>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/vikings>
<http://www.fun-facts.org.uk/vikings/vikings.htm>
http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/living_things/circulation/read/1/
<http://kidshealth.org/kid/htbw/>
- b. Help your child learn how to locate and take their pulse.
- c. Visit Viking artefacts – e.g. at the Jorvik centre or Derby Museum.

Targets

The children will have termly Numeracy and Literacy targets again this year and these will be given out later in the term

Homework

MyMaths and SPaG.com

This year, the majority of weekly homework will be set using these online sites. They are an excellent resource and provide opportunities for children to consolidate and practise skills they are learning in class and to get feedback on how they have done. Ideally, these should be completed at home, however we will be providing a weekly homework club for children who have any issues with accessing the internet at home. Both sites will be demonstrated and explained to the children before homework tasks are set and they will have had the opportunity to complete tasks in class before having to do any at home. More information to follow.

Topic Homework

In addition to the above weekly homework, the children will be set a homework project to complete each half term. These will provide a chance for the children to increase their knowledge and understanding of our topic and to show off their creative talents! Projects

will be displayed in in the classroom or year 6 corridor and house points will be awarded for effort. Again more information to follow.

Home reading

Children should aim to read at least five times each week. At year 6, this should be a mixture of independent reading and reading aloud to an adult. When the children are reading to you, please take the time to ask them questions about the text in order to develop their comprehension skills. Information about specific skills is detailed in the end of year expectations leaflet, and ideas to support this can be found within their reading diary. Please ensure reading is recorded in their diary so I can keep a track in school. I will be running a voluntary, weekly, lunchtime reading club for children who want a chance to do some extra reading in school. From time to time, I may request that children stay in for reading club, if they have not done a sufficient amount of reading at home. Please note this is NOT a punishment, it is to encourage regular reading habits and to ensure I can monitor the children's reading.

Spellings

Children will continue to bring home their spelling journals, where the emphasis is on an investigative approach to learning spelling rules. They will continue to have a spelling test each week.

Times tables

We are continuing to ensure that the children have a really good recall of their multiplication and division facts. Fluent recall of all table facts from 2 to 12 will be of great benefit to them in all areas of maths.

I would appreciate your help in giving reminders to complete the work and, if necessary, by giving direct help. Please let me know, of course, if your child seems to be struggling with any aspects of their work.

Water bottles

Children are allowed to have a water bottle to drink from during lesson time. As this will be kept on their table, the bottle must be named and have a **sports bottle type valve** to minimise the chance of spillages and damage to work and books. As part of our healthy-eating policy, the bottle must contain only water and not juice or flavoured drinks.

PE

Children will continue to swim on a Thursday morning, as per Mrs Powell's letter. Their other PE lesson will be on a Wednesday afternoon. They will need to have both an indoor and outdoor kit in school all week.

SATs

During Year 6 the children are required to take a number of statutory tests in English and Maths. This year, these tests will take place between Monday 8th May and Thursday 11th May. Please avoid this week when booking dentist, doctors or hospital appointments.

If you need any further information, please contact me at school.

Many thanks,

Mrs M Ursell

