

# Year 6 Class Newsletter.

## Autumn Term 2018

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope that you have enjoyed the summer and, like us, are looking forward to a busy and productive term. A further welcome to new families who have joined us - we hope that you and your children will be happy and settle quickly. We trust that the following information will be useful as we begin a new academic year.

### Staffing

Year 6 teachers for this term will be Miss Caroline Morgan and Ms Sheena Taylor. We are also fortunate to be joined by Mrs Amanda Gale, Mrs Elizabeth Slater, Mrs Ann Clarke and Mrs Julie Reed as our teaching assistants. On Tuesday afternoons, Mrs Liz Gavrilenko will be teaching Spanish and member of staff from Saints South West will be teaching PE.

### Curriculum

We are really excited that, as a whole school, we are starting a new, enquiry-based curriculum. Our first enquiry will centre around 'Linnaeus and Darwin: How are they connected?' will learning focusing on scientific classification, evolution and adaptation. To launch this enquiry, the children will be looking at the characteristics they have inherited from their parents. **Please can you provide your child with a photo of themselves and both parents (either in one photo together or in separate photos) for use on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September.** Additional photos of other family members (siblings, grandparents, etc) may also be interesting to look at. Original photos will be returned. Do you have an interest in botanical art, fossils, or any of the science we will be covering? If so, please let us know!

Later in the term, our second enquiry will be 'How are lives saved?' If you, or anyone you know, does a job in health or the emergency services, please could you let us know - we will be looking for a range of people to come and engage with the children.

For our English, we will be focusing initially on the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. The children will be writing persuasive letters and explanation texts.

### P.E./Games

P.E. Kit will be required on **Tuesdays and Fridays**. However, it would be a good idea to have P.E. kit in school all week as we may occasionally need to make timetable changes due to weather or changes to the hall timetable. The P.E. kit should include shorts, a T-shirt with trainers for outdoor sessions, a tracksuit/pair of jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt for later in the term when the weather gets colder.

Please ensure all clothing and possessions are clearly labelled. We have already spotted a few items of unnamed uniform!

### Jewellery

In line with school policy and for the obvious health and safety reasons, we would ask that children do not wear jewellery to school. Stud earrings and wrist watches are acceptable, although these will need to be removed or covered for P.E. sessions.

### Homework

Homework will be handed out on a **Friday**, to be returned on the following **Wednesday** so that it can be marked before the new set is given out.

In Year 6, we provide the children with a set of published workbooks for reading, maths and grammar. These form the basis of the homework we set, with the children being set a number of papers to complete each week. We have provided each child with a combined reading record and homework diary - they will write down the pages to complete for homework in this book each week. Please ensure that your child is also regularly recording all reading they do in here too (this can be any reading, not just school reading books). We very much value open communication between home and school and would encourage you to use the homework book or reading record book as a means of

communication if you find this useful. In particular, if there is ever a misunderstanding about a homework task or particular difficulty completing it, please come and speak to us on a Monday or Tuesday so that issues can be resolved before the day it is due to be handed in.

#### Intervention Groups

From time to time we offer the children additional support to enhance their learning. It is not always possible to do this in class time and sometimes intervention groups may take place during assembly time. Whilst we value the daily act of worship held in school, we also recognise the impact that a 15-20 minute small group session can have. We assume that most parents and carers are happy with this but if you do feel strongly that your child should not miss the daily act of worship please let us know.

#### Break Time Snacks

Please could we remind you that we encourage fruit and vegetable snacks only on Monday - Thursday with the children having a freer choice on Fridays. If you are not sure about what to send, please ask. In line with school policy, sweets and chocolate are not allowed at break times.

#### Drinks

We ask that children who wish to bring drinks into the classroom bring them in a clearly

labelled bottle and bring only water. The bottle can be refilled in school as often as is needed.

#### Year 6 Assembly

Year 6 will be leading an assembly at 3pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September to share our experiences from Year 6 camp. It would be really lovely if you were able to join us for this assembly. Following this, we will both be available after school if you have got any questions or queries about Year 6.

Parent -Teacher interview meetings are scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Details will follow nearer the time.

#### Other key dates for your diary

- 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019: Statutory end of KS2 SATs. No requests for holidays during this week please.

#### Help

If you would like to help out in school, we would love to hear from you. Regular or "ad hoc" sessions would be equally welcomed. No previous experience is necessary and an information pack will be given on your first visit. In line with our Safeguarding procedures we would have to ask that a police check be carried out. Ask at the Office for details and a form.

*Caroline Morgan and Sheena Taylor.*