



Mr D Roberts, Headteacher

Important Information for Year 6 Parents/Carers

Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

After what has been a difficult and unprecedented period of 'firsts' and unknowns, comes a relative return to normality as we welcome your children back to school, and the Year 6 staff are all excited and pleased to be doing so. We've missed you! Some aspects of school life will be running slightly differently to what all of us are used to, but as Year 6s, I am confident that the children in our care will adapt and model the way for the rest of the school. Whilst we are sure that many children will be excited to return and see their friends and teachers, others may be feeling anxious and balancing curriculum with caring for well being will be at the forefront of our planning. Through working closely together with parents and carers, we aim to best prepare your children for the transition from Key Stage Two to Key Stage Three whilst giving them an enjoyable and educationally enriching year of learning.

The Curriculum

Attached to this letter you will find a curriculum map outlining some aspects of our first topic - 'Having a Voice'. It is important to stress that, as per Government guidance, no subjects will be dropped or reduced in favour of other subjects as a result of the pandemic. We believe in the strength of our living curriculum and the opportunities for learning that this provides. Curriculum development remains a focus this year, and the curriculum map provides only a skeleton of the projects that we will be undertaking, many of which will be cross curricular in nature. Much of our learning will be child-led and we will be planning for hands-on, collaborative, purposeful, challenging and connected learning opportunities. All subjects in Year 6 are planned collaboratively as we aim for consistency in opportunity across three classes.

Homework

We value your support in encouraging your child to complete his/her homework. We have generally found that sending a child to homework club to do the work, if not handed in on time, is a sufficient deterrent for most children and also provides good training for the self-discipline that homework at secondary school demands. If there is a good reason why your child cannot do the homework, then he/she must talk with the teacher concerned. If your child is struggling with his/her homework and has spent a reasonable amount of time on it (approx. 30 mins) then please encourage him/her to seek help from the teacher, rather than struggle on. Children can also choose to do their work in homework club supported by a teacher. We had overwhelmingly positive feedback for our 'menu-style' homework activities last year and as a result will be continuing with this method of setting homework. Some homework may need to be returned via Google Classrooms and details of these will be given at the time.

We request that you try and hear your child read aloud as much as possible, discussing the text as you read to help with understanding. All children **will** be coming home with high quality texts, either from the school library, classroom book corners or the new Reading Spine. Vocabulary knowledge and skills have a prominent position on the English curriculum and engaging with home reading is the most effective method of supporting your child's learning. Additionally, this allows for you to check that your child's comprehension of what they have read and that they are sufficiently challenged by the text. Children should **read five times a week** with a **minimum of three to an adult** and this must be recorded in their reading record book and your feedback is appreciated. A member of Year 6 staff will check the record weekly and we will inform your child which day that will be on. In addition, it is an expectation



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that spelling and times tables practice takes place daily to support learning, perhaps even more so given the circumstances this year.

### **Reminders**

Children must not have mobile phones in their possession during the school day. If you do wish for a child to bring their mobile phone with them to school, it must be handed to their class teacher at the start of the day to be stored in the classroom cupboard. The school does not accept responsibility for the loss or damage of any phones or other electrical equipment brought on site. Additionally, we do not allow any jewellery other than small studded earrings, not coloured or fancy. Nail varnish, transfer tattoos and hair gel/wax are also not permitted and must be removed before coming back to school.

Long hair should be tied up at all times with a discrete hair tie/ band of a plain colour, preferably black, brown, green or grey. Lost property cannot be allowed to accumulate at school, particularly as we do not wish for people to be handling others' possessions at this time. Please ensure that **ALL** clothes are named so that they can be re-united with their owners easily.

The KS2 Statutory Assessments (SATs) are scheduled to be taking place as normal this academic year during the week commencing 10th May 2021. Please avoid booking any appointments or holidays for this week or the weeks immediately building up to it; your child must be in school.

### **PE**

PE and Games days are as follows and **we remind you that children should come to school dressed for PE on these days:**

6R (Rowan)	Mr Hyde's Class	Tuesday and Friday
6H (Chestnut)	Miss Tarbox's Class	Tuesday and Thursday
6E (Cherry)	Miss Morris' Class	Tuesday and Friday

We must stress however that trainers should be in school every day as we hope to include exciting outdoor curriculum opportunities that require physical activity.

For all PE lessons, children should have a change of socks, a school PE shirt, black PE shorts and plimsolls. If it is very cold, green, grey, navy or black tracksuit bottoms may be worn. The children also need a sweatshirt or tracksuit top, again in green, grey, navy or black and a lightweight waterproof coat. Ideally, earrings should not be worn to school on PE days, however if they are worn, children will have to take them out for PE and Games lessons or bring surgical tape to cover them up.

### **Equipment**

Children in Year 6 should have the following equipment at all times and due to the circumstances around Covid-19, children will not be able to borrow or share equipment.

*More than one blue handwriting pen.*

*More than one black fineliner pen.*

*More than one HB pencil.*

*Decent colouring pencils.*

*Clear **plastic** 30cm ruler (not flexible or hinged) or preferably two.*

*A good rubber.*

*Sharpener with pot attached (to avoid frequent journeys to the bin).*

*A small pencil case which will fit in the desk tray.*

*A small set of highlighters.*

*Additionally, we request that children come prepared with their own scissors and glue stick to avoid contamination.*

**Much lesson time is wasted if children do not have the necessary equipment. Please ensure that these are replenished/replaced if items become lost or broken.**

...and finally

Mr Hyde, Miss Tarbox and Miss Morris are looking forward to what promises to be an excellent year working with your children.

If you have any queries about anything mentioned in this newsletter, or if you need to see us concerning other issues, we are happy to talk with you at a mutually convenient time; please do use the class email account to contact teachers about specific classroom issues, but note that responses may take up to 24 hours. For all other information and requests, contact the school office as normal.

Thank you again for all of your support,



Mr Hyde



Miss Tarbox



Miss Morris