

5th September 2018

Dear Year 6 Children and Parents,

Welcome back to your final year at St Augustine's. I hope you have all had a fun filled and relaxing summer and are ready for the year ahead. Year 6 will be a busy and exciting year and I have no doubt that it will be highly successful.

This year we are very lucky to be working alongside Mr Hobby who is training to be a teacher. Mr Hobby is completing his teacher training through Chichester University and over the year will be gradually increasing his teaching responsibilities. We are also lucky enough to have some time with Deacon Geoffrey who will be assisting with our Religious Education on a weekly basis.

Our topic for the first term is India. This will form the basis of a lot of our Literacy work as we will be reading and studying *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham. It will also be the theme around which a lot of our afternoon work is based and a large proportion of our homework.

This year we will be having a big push on mathematical reasoning and spelling, punctuation and grammar (SpaG). As you will be aware Year 6 have their SATs tests in the summer term and the National Curriculum places a much higher importance on maths and SpaG. Therefore we will be continuing with our daily maths lesson alongside a daily teaching and consolidating session where we can build upon calculation and reasoning skills. In addition we will be having a daily SpaG lesson in preparation for the end of year tests.

Homework explained - Autumn Term

This half term the homework will be fairly similar to the Year 5 homework, however being in Year 6 will mean there is slightly more.

Spellings

Every week the children will have 5 spellings to learn from the statutory curriculum spelling list. These lists are given out for Y3/4 and Y5/6 at the beginning of the term and the children also have them stuck in the front cover of their Literacy books. Each week the children will have 5 to learn and on completion of these words will be given the next 5 to learn. The test will take place on a Monday mornings and the children's new spelling will be sent home on Wednesdays at the very latest. The remainder of the spelling test will be on rules taught that week during spelling lessons. For example, if the rule learnt is how to turn singular nouns into plural nouns, the children will know the rules (change 'y' to an 'i' and add es, if it ends in th/sh/ch/x then add es etc) from their lessons and will be

asked to practise this rule at home. During their spelling test the remaining 5 words might then be churches, foxes, babies, mountains and tables.

Maths

Each week there will be maths homework set on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday. This will either be based on what we have been covering in class or revising an area we should already know. This is to be completed in the homework book. Please ensure that any sheets are stuck in to avoid them getting lost.

Literacy/Topic work - India/Cloud Tea Monkeys

Literacy and topic homework is a little more open ended. The children will have a grid of activities based on India and our class text which focus on ICT, Literacy, Art, Geography, History and DT. Each activity has a given number of points and over the half term the children will need to complete a minimum of 35 points (of course they can exceed this number if they wish). It is important to make sure that at least one activity from each group is completed (A-E).

To ensure that we can monitor progress and record how many points have been completed, the children must be prepared to bring in this homework on Wednesdays (starting Wednesday 12th September) rather than leaving it all to the end of the half term. Having said this, if your child is working on a larger piece of homework and devising something more creative, they can bring it in at the end of a two week period. Please do not feel limited to the homework books for this work; it can be presented in any way the children like.

Please ask if you are unsure or need any support with the activities. Have fun!

Reading

In addition to the set homework I cannot stress the importance of regular reading enough. The children should be reading most evenings and discussing their texts. Please also remember to record reading in their journals provided.

Dates for class liturgies and other school events should be published soon so please keep your eyes out for letters, parent mails and any updates on the website.

If anybody has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember that we host a "Meet the Teacher" session every year. During this session I will be giving a brief overview of life in Year 6, expectations, homework and the end of key stage SATs tests. Year 6 is an important year for the children and your support is invaluable; I hope to see you there.

I am very much looking forward to this year and thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Gray