

6th September 2017

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 Mrs Wilkins (our class teaching assistant) and Mr Brown - who will be leading some small booster groups as well as teaching science each week. 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 calculation skills and spelling, punctuation and grammar (SpaG). As you will be aware Year 6 have their SATs tests in the summer term and the new National Curriculum places a much higher importance on calculation and SpaG. Therefore we will be continuing with our daily maths lesson alongside a teaching and consolidating session where we can build upon skills we already know. 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 spellings to learn. Spellings for the whole term will be given out and it will be the children's responsibility to learn them ready for the test each week. The test will take place on a Monday before break time and the children's new spelling will be sent home on Tuesdays at the very latest. The curriculum states the set words that children should know before leaving primary school and these words form part of the end of year SATs tests hence it is important that children learn them.

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 gird 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 they will need to complete a minimum of 35 points (of course they can exceed this number of 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 13th 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" afternoon every autumn term. During this session I will be giving a brief overview of life in Year 6 and the end of key stage SATs tests. I would love to meet as many of you there as possible

I am very much looking forward this year and getting to know the children.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Lambourne