

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to Year 5/6. We are delighted to see everyone back again after the break and we hope you have all had a restful New Year (despite how long ago it may feel now!).

Curriculum

Our Geography topic this after half term will look at rainforests, with a focus on South America and



the Amazon. Our history topic is a



brief history of WWII, less about the battles and generals and instead focussing on the effect the war had on people at home. In science our biology unit focus on animals (including humans),

followed by a look at light and how we see after half term.

Preparation

This Year there is a lot of preparation for both SATs and secondary school for our year 6 cohort, and moving through Upper KS2 for our year 5 children. We are encouraging the children to become increasingly independent and to organise themselves so that they are ready to learn. While I will remain the main teacher across the week, the children will benefit from working with some other members of staff who will teach their specialism such as PE, Music and computing. Miss Butler, whose maths skills are highly prized and valued across school, will be taking both the year 5 and 6 classes at various times.

Year 6 will be given maths, reading, and grammar homework in addition to spellings. Year 5 will continue to have the reading and maths activities that will be similar to when I took over the class last year. Homework will be set on a **Tuesday** and should be returned **NO LATER** than the following **Tuesday**.

If you are unsure about how to do the homework, please encourage the children to look on YouTube, or Google it, as there are many short videos and examples that will help. Help will of course be available from school, but not on the due date.

Reading must continue to be a priority and we will be encouraging the children to read daily at school and at home. Reading stamina to the expected level can be a stumbling block Upper KS2 in recent years and I am keen to break that cycle. The reading SAT paper, for example, requires children to read high-level texts that total between 1,500 and 2,300 words in a short space of time. We would ask you to initial their diaries to say that they have done so at least weekly. We have some specific Upper KS2 texts in the classroom that we will be encouraging the children to read throughout the year.

The children will have PE on Mondays and Tuesdays and it would be helpful if they kept some trainers in school as there are sometimes other opportunities for PE. We would appreciate it if you could encourage your child to use deodorant daily as they can get quite hot and sweaty during exercise!

Trips and Visits

The nature of the class and the nature of being in Upper KS2 means that there have been, and will be, opportunities for trips and visits for both year 5 and year 6 throughout the year. I would like to do a whole-class trip in the Pentecost term and will look at the feasibility and opportunity of this and update you further in the Lent term.

Equipment

It would be helpful if the children could bring a small pencil case, containing a rubber, pencil sharpener, a selection of coloured pencils and glue stick.

If children bring mobile phones to school they will be collected at the beginning of the school day, put in our basket and given back at home time. If your child makes their own way to or from school, please make sure that you have completed the permission form and returned it to school so we have an up to date list.

I look forward to working closely with you again this calendar year. Please do not hesitate to contact us by writing in their personal planner or message me on Dojo.

Best wishes

Mr Moreton and the Year 6 team.