



## Year 6 – Spring Term Newsletter

Friday 17th January 2014

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Following the rather long Autumn term newsletter that I sent out, you'll be pleased to know that this one is decidedly shorter!

It seems like an age ago now, but shortly before Christmas, the children completed a range of assessments in Numeracy, Literacy and Science – the results of which I am pleased to say were generally very positive – a just reward for their largely hardworking Autumn term.

In my experience, however, it is the Spring term of Year 6 that proves to be the most important and intense, as the children consolidate their learning throughout KS2 and prepare for the statutory end of Key Stage assessments in May. It is vital that your child understands how important the next few weeks are for them and that they are fully prepared - mentally, physically and organisationally - for school each day.

During this term, the children can expect much of the curriculum to consist of Literacy, Numeracy, RE and Science activities, as extra time will be given to these subjects to ensure that the Year 6 curriculum in these is largely covered before Easter. Other subjects will continue, however, they will have far less weighting on the timetable. This imbalance will, of course, be addressed in the Summer term.

Unfortunately for the children, this term I will be asking them to complete more homework! They will continue to receive weekly Numeracy and Literacy tasks on a Friday as well as spellings. In addition to this homework, I will also be sending your child home with a reading comprehension practice paper each Friday. This consists of two parts: a reading booklet and a set of questions to answer. The children need to complete this and bring it to school with them on the following Wednesday, as we will be looking at the comprehension paper together in class. Some children have also been coming to me asking me for additional work to help them consolidate aspects of maths and English which they feel they need further practice in. I will happily provide them with this and have already given them the opportunity to take additional materials to help with their mental maths and punctuation!

It is also critical that your child continues to read on a daily basis as, despite the reading comprehension, writing and maths levels of the children increasing significantly last term, it would seem that their 'reading ages' (that is their ability to read or 'decode' words) have not increased as much. The best way to improve these is to read regularly and ensure that the material that the children are reading is providing a suitable enough challenge that they are constantly being introduced to new vocabulary and language.

Over the next few weeks, I will be sending you a number of letters containing information about the key events which will be taking place over the coming months – most notably Confirmation, which will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, and the arrangements for this year's SATs in May.

I'd like to finish by just reminding you just how important it is that your child's attendance is as high as possible this term. There continues to be a strong correlation nationally between children's attendance and progress. Particularly this term, recovering ground lost through days off school will prove very difficult as time is at such a premium. On a similar note, I have been made very much aware that Year 6 are by far the worst class in the school in terms of arriving on time for school each day, and that a significant number of late book entries are made up of Year 6 children. The most detrimental effect of a child being late for school is not the few minutes of the morning that they miss, but the fact that they arrive to school in a 'running late' mentality which can and does have a knock on effect throughout the day.

On a personal note, I have to say that this academic year so far has been a great one. I tell people on a daily basis how lucky I am to have such a brilliant class of amazing children. I have to nag at them occasionally, particularly those who don't seem to be learning their spellings, but largely, every day with them is an absolute pleasure.

I look forward to seeing you and sharing with you your child's progress at the parent consultation evening, later in the term, details of which you will receive shortly. As always, should you have any concerns, or there be anything that you need to discuss, make no hesitation in coming to see me – the door is always open!

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**Kind regards,**

**Mr Andrew Cooke**