

Year 6 Summer Holiday Challenge

Dear Parents,

It was an absolute pleasure to spend the day with your children during transition morning. As always, their good behaviour and fantastic attitude shone through. It's safe to say we're very excited for them to begin their year 6 journey with us in September. As seasoned veterans of Castle Hill you will already know that we set high standards in terms of work and behaviour. Standards are incredibly high in Year 6 with the emphasis on certain core values which drive the year. These being:

- achieving and delivering the best at all times,
- being motivated to set goals and obtain them,
- maturing and demonstrating leadership skills in preparation for secondary school life.
- showing initiative and independence in both their work and monitor jobs.

Most children do find it a challenge, and sometimes a little daunting, given what we need to accomplish throughout the year. Please find time to talk and support your child with this as throughout the year they will need to draw on every bit of support to push them towards their final goals. There will be a SATs parents talk in the next academic year where we will outline the process, our approach and how you can best support your child. Please be aware that we use the past KS2 papers to assess the children and prepare them for SATs – we kindly ask that you do not use these at home. We will of course give advice and guidance on how to support your children at home when the time comes!

The following activities are suggestions rather than requirements. However, the more they do, the easier it will be to get back into the school routine in September. We will of course, recognise effort and work completed.

Writing

We would like your child to do a piece of writing. This could be a report on their favourite day, a diary of their holiday, a poem, a fact-file on their dream holiday destination, a newspaper report on a sporting event, a book review... the opportunities are endless! This will help us understand their writing style and interests.

Reading

We're incredibly excited that the Hampshire library service have resumed the Summer reading challenge. This year's theme is Gadgeteers and the aim is to inspire young readers, aged 4-11, to enjoy learning about science and innovation – by teaming up with the Winchester Science Centre to help fuel imaginations throughout the reading mission.

Families and carers can sign-up children online, or by visiting their closest Hampshire Library - it's free to join the library and take part in the challenge. Every child who reads, listens to, or shares six books will receive a certificate and medal, and also be entered into a draw to win a Samsung Galaxy tablet. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/kids-zone>

Maths

As well as being able to solve real-life mathematical problems, your child will need razor-sharp mental skills. Times table knowledge is integral to this. Please continue to support your child in being able to answer, at speed, their tables up to 12 x 12 (the current Government Target is for children to know their tables by the end of Year 4). They should also relate their knowledge to division i.e. if $8 \times 7 = 56$, then $56 \div 7 = 8$.

Maths makes more sense to children if it is related to the real world. Take the opportunity to talk maths to your child, for example: take your child shopping and get them to work out change, or add up several items; encourage them to read the time (on a digital and analogue clock); look at distances – how far are they travelling in the car to their destination; plan a journey using a timetable... Again, the opportunities are endless. Short, daily practice is the most effective way for them to learn.

We are really excited about working with your child in Year 6. We know we're going to have a fantastic, fun-filled year. Have a restful, relaxing and, hopefully, peaceful summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finn
(Head of Year)

Mrs Moore
(Class Teacher)