

July 2021

### Year 6 Summer Holiday Challenge

Dear Parents,

It was an absolute pleasure to see some of the children last week for our transition meeting. 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.

A key part of Year 6 is the exciting responsibility it brings. Usually, we would have held elections and encouraged the children to give a speech to their peers in the hall. Obviously, this hasn't taken place but it's a rite of passage we cannot overlook. Therefore, we would like your child to write and rehearse a speech outlining the following:

- Position applied for
- Key qualities that they'd need
- Things they can bring to the role.

They can choose to use props and a short power point to support. Please keep these to a maximum of 2 minutes.

The Year 6 team will then film individuals giving their speeches in the first week back after the summer holidays. These videos will be shared with each class, in the place of the usual assembly format they would be shared in, to enable them to watch and vote for their choices.

We'd like this to be the main focus of their summer holiday homework.

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.

We realise that the children have done a lot of 'home' working with you over the last two years. 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.

## English

### 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!

Alternatively, one of our first topics will be based on a Shakespeare play so the children may like to research the playwright or the Globe Theatre and base their writing on this instead. Should they wish to get really creative, they could make a model of the Globe Theatre or even write their own play.

Merits will be awarded for the most creative and best-written (including punctuation, vocabulary choices etc.) as well as bonus merits for those who have thought about how they will present their work.

### Reading

We would also like your child to continue to read throughout the holidays. Please encourage them to try to read a variety of different texts in order to help your child build up their vocabulary and their confidence in identifying themes and conventions. It is vital that you listen to your child read and discuss the text with them afterwards because sometimes, even the most fluent reader, might not fully understand the text.

### 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  $12 \times 12$  (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.

There is also TTRS and activelearn should they wish to do online work.

### Uniform

In Year 6, the children are the representatives of our school. Smart appearance and impeccable manners are vital. Please ensure that your child is in clean, smart school uniform EVERY day. We would prefer them to be in blazer and tie, especially if they are Head, Deputy or Assistant Head Boy/Girl. We will not tolerate scruffy or extreme haircuts (and ask that they do not return in September with these) hair gel or wax, jewellery, make-up, nail varnish, leggings or trainers.

On a positive note and more personal note, 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 Thomas  
(Head of Year)

Miss Lounton  
(Class Teacher)

Mrs Goddard

Mrs Munde  
(PTP team)

Miss Gannon and Miss Wheatley

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