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| **Year 6 Newsletter** |
| Welcome  Welcome back to all of our fantastic new Year 6 children.  First of all, we want to say a huge thank you to all of our children for their resilience, maturity and positive minds shown as we welcomed you all back into our wonderful school. It has been so lovely to see you all settle back into school life and see you enjoying connecting back with your peers and teachers. Also, a big thank you to all of our parents and carers for their continued understanding and support as we adapt and continuously review our guidance at this time. If you wish to speak to your class teacher with any questions or queries, to comply with current guidance we ask for you to **please arrange a phone call or to email them directly**, so that we are reducing contact time at the classroom door as much as possible. The email addresses of our Year 6 teachers are as follows:  Class 19, Miss Anson – [hanson@chapelfordvillageprimary.co.uk](mailto:hanson@chapelfordvillageprimary.co.uk) Class 20, Miss Gill – [hgill@chapelfordvillageprimary.co.uk](mailto:hgill@chapelfordvillageprimary.co.uk)  Class 21, Miss Brownbill – [lbrownbill@chapelfordvillageprimary.co.uk](mailto:lbrownbill@chapelfordvillageprimary.co.uk)  As we ease back into school life, our learning for the first eight days has been focused on the book, ‘HERE WE ARE’ by Oliver Jeffers – a beautifully illustrated story appreciating how wonderful Earth and life is. The message from this book to the children was that there is always someone they can speak to, to share any concerns or worries with at this time of uncertainty. Our English learning has been looking at the positive effects lockdown has had on our environment and from this we wrote setting descriptions of an unpolluted and polluted Earth, to include lots of figurative language. The children have also took part in daily mindfulness lessons, practised their skill of printing in Art, recapped their basic knowledge of place value in Maths and listened and appreciated the musical work of the composer Gustav Holts in his piece ‘The Planets’. The Year 6 teachers were very impressed to hear the children confidently use musical language as they described the dynamics, timbre, tempo and pitch of the pieces!  PSHE and Mindfulness  Mindfulness and providing the children with an opportunity to talk and discuss their feelings is going to be an essential part of each of our days. We will be focusing greatly on building the children’s relationships and communications, encouraging the use of space in the outdoors, linking their responses and new knowledge with world events to establish connections, listening to them and most importantly, providing a safe environment for children to share their thoughts and ideas. This may include brain breaks, colouring, drawing, breathing and movement exercises and encouraging a growth mindset.  Reading  In line with our school expectations, we ask that all children in Year 6 read at home 5 times per week and record this in their homework diary. We also ask that a parent or carer please signs this once per week as we hope to continue our communication between school and home. In Year 6, we have an additional reward scheme throughout our three classes called ‘Starbooks’. For every week the children read 5 times at home, they will gain a stamp on their loyalty card and for every 6 stamps earned, they will earn themselves a warm ‘hot’ chocolate in a disposable cup. All children should have now taken home a reading book suitable for their book banded level, alongside their homework diary. For Year 6, we appreciate and understand that for our more able readers they may find that this book is smaller in length than others, but as we adjust back to school life, we ask that they begin with their levelled book in order to boost their confidence and to support us with our assessment. We will continuously review the level which your child is reading at through weekly double guided reading sessions and these books will then change accordingly. Please can we ask that once your child has read their book that **ALL books are returned to school**. This is essential in order for us to continue to provide home reading books and guidance to these books remaining in a plastic box for 72 hours before being shared again will be followed.  English  This half term, we will soon begin our new text ‘Star of Fear, Star of Hope’ by Jo Hoestlandt based around the historical event of World War Two, The Holocaust. This book is set in 1942, in France during the Nazi occupation of World War II. A child named Helen recalls the mounting persecution of her Jewish friend and namely, the new law set which stated that Jewish people were to wear a star on their clothing. Alongside this text, we will also be reading ‘Boy in the Striped Pyjamas’ by John Boyne as part of our class read at the end of each day and looking at ‘Poems from the Second World War’ within our reading sessions. We will be linking this directly to our RE topic of Judaism and discussing the inequalities and discrimination behind this event in History. Improvements in presentation, including handwriting, spelling and punctuation will also be a focus.  Maths  Our maths learning has begun with Place Value as we overlearn and secure key concepts in order to apply these throughout all areas of maths as the year progresses. We are focusing largely on understanding the place value of each digit with numbers up to ten million in order to compare, use rounding, and a big focus is also on securing our lining up of digits correctly ready to progress onto using column methods within our addition and subtraction unit. Each week, the children will also practise their times tables, sticky maths and complete 4 a day to continue overlearning arithmetic style questions.  Key information  We ask that the children are coming into school each day with limited equipment so that we can reduce as best as possible, the potential transmission and contact between items moving between home and school. Therefore, we ask that all children come to school each day with a school book bag only, a reusable water bottle, a lunch box (if required), a coat (scarves and hats if weather permitted) and PE kit **only** at the beginning of the term. PE kits will be sent home with the children at October half term to be washed. Unfortunately, we do not have the space available at this time to accommodate rucksacks or larger bags and therefore, we do ask for these to be left at home, as well as personal pencil cases. All stationery is provided by the school to the pupils. Thank you for your understanding with this and patience at this time.  All of the children’s homework diaries now contain their passwords for a variety of home learning resources:   * Letter Join for further handwriting practise and support. * Reading Plus to support reading speed, fluency and comprehension. * My Maths for focused practise in all areas of maths. * Times Table Rockstar’s to improve mental maths speed. * Maths watch to support with their understanding of mathematical concepts and to provide further practise.   As a school, we are currently in the process of setting up individual passwords for all of our pupils to access a new online resource called Seesaw. All of the children’s home learning will soon be set and uploaded to this resource, which will provide greater access, reduce papers being sent home and teachers can also provide verbal feedback to this. Further information about our home learning expectations will follow soon.  Once again, thank you for your continued understanding and support. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher for further information, support or if you have a query on the email addresses provided at the top of this newsletter. |
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