



Dear Parents,

A new year and what a very important one it is for your child! I have been very impressed by the positive attitude and level of enthusiasm displayed so far by your children and I am looking forward to sharing with them the challenges and journey that lies ahead.

As they're the eldest children in school we expect them to act as role models for their peers and have asked them to take on extra responsibilities, such as monitoring the doors during breaktime, completing classroom tasks for the teachers etc. Their help makes a big difference and helps us to ensure that school's daily routines run more smoothly. We appreciate their endeavours!

I am quite sure that you and your child have many questions regarding the proposed trip to York and there will be meetings organised nearer to the time enabling you to ask questions and giving us the opportunity to address any concerns. Even though March seems a while away I will be talking soon with the children about the cost of York and how they can help by starting to save some of their pocket money and perhaps ask for some of the larger items like suitcases as birthday or Christmas presents. The team are excited about the impending trip although probably not as much as the children will be!

Of course every teacher at KWPS feels passionately about your child's progress but it is fair to say due to the nature of the current education requirements SATS loom particularly large in Year 6. We will, during the year, be preparing them for these tests and homework is part of this learning process. This week your child will bring home a homework folder and at the front you will find a sheet outlining the date it is given out and the date it is expected to be returned to school; it also has a communication column for you to add your comments. This term, weekly homework will consist of an English and a Maths related task. These will be given out on a Thursday and will be expected to be returned, at the latest, by the following Tuesday.

In Year 6 your support and expectations that homework is completed is particularly crucial as a preparatory step to help them meet the homework requirements of secondary school. As always we ask you to find a quiet place for its completion and that you encourage them to produce homework of a high standard.

Spellings which will relate to the current rules being taught in school are sent home weekly, going out on a Thursday to be tested the following Thursday. Look, say, cover, write and check sheets are available to help you support your child.

As your children are fluent readers reading out loud is less important, however your input remains vital. We expect your child to continue to read on a regular basis and we are focusing in particular on developing their inference skills. Therefore we would be grateful if you could encourage your child to discuss what they have read. Over the coming weeks your child will also gain access to electronic books which have built in opportunities for developing comprehension.

Finally, I want your child to learn and flourish at school, so please do not hesitate to find me at the end of the school day to discuss any concerns that you feel are hindering your child's education. I thank you in anticipation of your support.

Ruth Lewthwaite
Year 6 teacher