



Jesus (the gardener) nourishes and tends us as we learn and grow, so that we can all flourish. As a vine, we are one, but all unique and special to Him. We care for each other, as God cares for us.



8th September 2023

Dear Year 6 Parents,

A very warm welcome back to school and to Year 6. The children have made a great start to the year and I have enjoyed getting to know them better this week. We are very much looking forward to our outdoor activity residential next week at Lockerbie Manor, where we will continue to build our relationships as a class team, which will stand us in good stead for the rest of the year.

Year 6 is a pivotal year for the children and involves a lot of extra responsibilities and opportunities, and it is great to see them already striving to meet the high standards expected of them around school. The children appear very excited to start their new jobs and roles, and there has been a lot of interest in the applications for this year's House, Vice and Sports Captains.

Much of the Year 6 experience is designed to help prepare the children for their transition to high school. The first of these is the introduction of their Primary Activity Logbook (PAL). In it, the children record important diary dates, keep track of their spellings, reading and any homework which is issued. Their PAL should be taken home each day and returned to school to help them develop their personal organisation.

The children will be given time to read regularly in school and should be encouraged to read daily at home too (we will be continuing the Karate Reading Challenge again this year), recording this in their PAL. The Year 6 Recommended Reading List (stuck inside the PAL) gives lots of ideas for texts which are age appropriate. Please continue to support your child with their reading, particularly through discussion, even though many are now generally competent readers. The children have been given a bookmark with a range of questions that you could discuss. Please return books borrowed from school upon completion to ensure the shelves remain full and varied.

Regular homework will be given out as follows:

- Weekly spellings, which the children need to learn, will be given out on Mondays and will be tested on Fridays.
- On Thursdays, the children will bring home a Maths "Flashback 4" activity sheet. These sheets will include questions on both the previous and current week's learning in our maths lessons and should take no more than about 20 minutes to complete. These should be returned to school the following Wednesday.
- We will be reading "Stay Where You Are And Then Leave", followed by "Goodnight Mr Tom" this term. The children will be expected to read some of this at home between lessons from time to time.





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It is really important for children to be secure with their times tables, as so much maths in Y6 is based upon them and they need to continue to be practising these regularly at home (I would recommend "Hit the Button" as an effective free website to use). Arithmetic and our Super Speedy Maths will be tested weekly in class.

Year 6 will be going swimming at the university on Thursday mornings this term. Please make sure your child brings their swimming kit into school each Thursday. If your child needs to wear goggles, forms are available from the office and must be returned in order for your child to wear their goggles during the lessons.

Looking further ahead, the children will be working towards KS2 SATs which are scheduled to take place in the week commencing Monday 13th May this year. Although these are a significant and important aspect of Year 6, we also have many other activities and opportunities to look forward to, such as Enterprise Week, Bikeability, Citizenship Week, trips, visitors and opportunities to represent school in the wider community and in sports teams.

I am very much looking forward to working with your child during the coming year. We will be holding our first parents' consultations at the end of this half term but please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions in the meantime.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Huddleston

