



ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

Head Teachers: MRS LAURA CUTTS NPQH & MRS SARAH HEANEY NPQH

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Dear Parent,

6th September 2021

Welcome to Year 6

On behalf of our team, welcome back for what we expect to be both an exciting and fulfilling academic year! It is lovely to have the prospect of a full, uninterrupted year in school! During their final year with us, we encourage the children to embrace challenges that will prepare them for life in secondary school and beyond as we help them to grow and mature. We hope that you will find the following information useful in explaining some of the procedures for Year 6 pupils.

This year our staff are:

Teachers:

Mr Jarvis
Mr Bowles
Mrs Rajan
Miss Harrison

Teaching Assistants:

Mrs Merryweather
Mrs Chidgey
Miss Nicholls
Mrs Harmer

PE & Other Equipment:

As a minimum expectation, all children must come to school with a black pen, a pencil, a ruler, a glue-stick and a rubber. Coloured pencils, though not essential, are very useful. Please ensure that children come into school on a Monday in a PE kit ready for their PE lessons on a Monday afternoon. House T-shirts are available from the office if required. Children should also bring a water bottle to school every day. Please ensure that your child comes to school each day wearing the correct school uniform.

Multiplication Tables and Spelling:

The National Curriculum expectation is that children will know all of their multiplication facts to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. In order to fully access the Year 6 maths curriculum, it is important that this expectation has been met, and therefore we place a high emphasis on children being able to recall both the multiplication and division facts to 12 x 12. Children who are not yet secure with their tables will be tested weekly, and learning their tables will form the basis of their maths homework for that week. For those children that are more confident with their multiplication tables, maths homework will be sent that reinforces their classroom learning. Equally important is the expectation that children learn the weekly spellings that are given out on a Monday. These will be tested in school on the following Monday.

Reading is an extremely important part of your child's cognitive development, and is something we value highly. Children are reading in school every day and this should also take place at home. We ask that children read aloud to an adult at least three times a week at home. Please support your child by asking them about their reading, reading with them and listening to them read. Check our website for a list of recommended texts.

Kent Test:

We have the Kent Test taking place this Thursday. A separate letter will go out explaining what will happen on the day. Below is a message I wrote for the Year Six children last year that is equally relevant, and worth bearing in mind, now:

I wanted to remind you, ahead of the Kent Test tomorrow, that no test taken at Primary School can define you or set your future. Each and every one of you have many unique talents and skills that will not be tested tomorrow.

All we can ask is that you give your best - that way you can be proud of yourself no matter what the outcome. No child "fails" a test at 10 or 11 years old.

The much loved author Michael Morpurgo is just one example of many people who didn't pass their Kent Test, but went on to be incredibly successful.

He gives an interview (for adults) about it here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-politics-37332415>

We are looking forward to an exciting year in which we will help your child develop and grow in confidence and readiness for secondary school. We appreciate your support in helping your children to achieve their full potential in the coming weeks and months.

Yours faithfully,

Mr David Jarvis
Head of Year 6