

Building Each Other Up in Love

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your families have had a restful break and that your children are ready and keen to start their new academic year. As a staff team, we are already looking forward to the excitement and new opportunities which getting to teach a new class of children brings!

Firstly, we would like to invite you all to attend in person our Year 6 Curriculum Evening where we will discuss all the exciting opportunities Year 6 brings for your child. Within this meeting we will also discuss the application and transition process to secondary school. The Year 6 meeting will be on **Wednesday 20th September 2022 at 7.30pm**. It covers much of this letter in more detail and we hope that it gives you both an understanding and an insight into life in Year 6.

Religious Education and Worship

This year we are excited to continue with our school values. These are: friendship, thankfulness, kindness, forgiveness, respect (for the environment), service and peace.

Each year group has been allocated with a spiritual value. During RE lessons and Class Worship time children will have the opportunity to learn and reflect upon their value using a range of resources, such as Biblical stories and verses, world news and events, and personal experiences. The children will also be encouraged to take ownership of their year group value by thinking about how it could be implemented into the school and wider community, for example raising awareness, fundraising money for charities or helping the school to be more eco-friendly. **The spiritual value for Year 6 is Peace.**

Reading

It is impossible to over emphasise the positive impact that reading has on your child's education and development. This key life skill, when learned and enjoyed at an early age, will improve your children's independent writing, expand their vocabulary, broaden their viewpoint on life, improve their concentration and expand their imagination. For these reasons, we would ask that you devote a little time each day for reading together with your son or daughter. Whatever form these sessions take: whether you share a book, take it in turns to read, listen to your child read or you are there to pose questions about what has been read, this is one of the best ways you can help your child flourish as a learner! In year six, our expectation is that your child reads at home for **at least 20 minutes a day**.

Spelling

We really value your support in helping your child to learn the spelling homework which they bring home on a weekly basis. This year, you will notice this will be different across the school as we have a new research-led spelling programme in school: CUSP Spelling. There will be three spelling lessons per week and one homework activity where children will explore words deeply and reason about their spellings. We encourage you to check that your child is completing their weekly spelling homework provided to them and explore and learn the words on the Year 5 and 6 word list.

Maths

This year we are extremely lucky to have adults working in the team across Year 6 who will be available to support teaching in maths. Consequently, we will be placing your children into one of two maths groups and having morning and in school additional provision to ensure rapid and sustained progress for all children. We will use the data previously analysed with the year five teachers in conjunction with our own, new assessments of the children to determine which group they will be in and what additional provision they require. These groups are not fixed, and there will be movement between them based on what the children need. If you have any queries about this, please do contact your child's class teacher.

Times Tables Rock Stars

The website to log on to is: <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

We encourage that all children, even if they know their tables up to 12x12 are completing this daily. Further information regarding how we will extend children using this platform will be provided at the Curriculum Evening.

Google Classroom

The Year 6 Google Classroom will be a hub for everything the children need to support them with their learning this academic year. Please encourage your child to check this regularly to ensure they utilise all of the resources there. Children will join their new classroom in school this week and secure access to everything that is on this platform.

Homework

Homework will be completed online via the Google Classroom and other online platforms that your child is already familiar with (Mathletics, TTRS etc.) as well as hard copies which will come to and from school in their homework folders. We will explain the homework timetable in more detail during the curriculum evening as it runs differently to the rest of the school to ensure children are supported in their transition to secondary school. You will be able to find the weekly homework timetable on your child's Google Classroom so that it is clear for everyone what they must complete that week. *A quick reminder: in the Upper Phase of the school, we require that children who do not hand in their homework stay in during break time in order to complete this work.*

PE and Games

Our PE and Games are as below. Please may we ask that children attend school on these days in their St. Stephen's PE kit with spare trainers in a separate bag in case of wet and muddy weather. A waterproof jacket and a water bottle should also be available at all times in school but specifically on these days.

- Kamkwamba class (Mr Munn) - Monday and Wednesday
- Obama class (Miss MacKenzie) - Wednesday and Friday

As always, if you have any concerns, worries or just want a quick informal chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either of us via the year6@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk.

We very much look forward to the academic year ahead!

Best wishes,

Sian MacKenzie & James Munn