



SAINT JOHN'S

Thursday 4th January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to Year 6 children and their families! We hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas break and the Year 6 staff would like to thank you for your very kind presents, cards and best wishes at the end of term. Thank you also for your support and encouragement during the Christmas plays and the carol service. It goes without saying that we were very proud of Year 6's contribution during the festive period! We have been already been busy during these first few days and we have an exciting term ahead.

Topic Work:

Year 6 are beginning a **Thrills and Spills** topic which will continue until Easter. This will include work about fairgrounds, theme parks and circuses as well as extreme sports. A more detailed topic map will soon be published on the school website in the curriculum area.

On Wednesday 10th January, Thomas Trilby, a professional circus performer, will be coming to school to teach Year 6 some circus skills. We will be practising the skills throughout the term and before Easter, Thomas Trilby is returning to help the children perform their own circus show to their families. (Date to be confirmed)

During computing lessons, we will animating our own versions of 'Morph' (any parents remember him?!) using specialist animation iPad apps. In a few weeks time, the children may bring in miniature props to use in their animations. These can be kept in their trays and used during the appropriate lesson. Please do not send anything precious in as props will get covered in plasticine!

Reading teachers=reading pupils:

For the second consecutive year, I am participating in this Cheltenham Literature Festivals project where I am required to read and use five newly written children's novels as well as contributing to research about reading for pleasure. I would like to run book clubs for older children at Saint John's based on Emma Carroll's 'Letters from a Lighthouse' - a novel set around WW2. If you are interested in helping to run a small group, please come and see me for more information. It would involve reading the novel and simple discussions with children just for pleasure – not a SAT question or any assessment in sight. I will give guidance and help and apart from reading the novel, there would be little preparation. We might be able to run consecutive groups of children in different corners of the school.

Homework and projects

Thank you to all of the families who support their children in completing high quality homework. We really have seen some of the best contributions to the English this year and we display 'best' English homework on a special board. We have received models, booklets, chapter books and a variety of other responses to the English homework grid. If you lose the grid, there are spares in class (your child just needs to ask) and we will get it onto the website. There is a new 'Thrills and Spills' English homework and maths continues with the CGP workbooks. Homework projects can be about any aspect to do with 'Thrills and Spills': extreme sport, theme parks, circuses... There will be a Junior project sharing morning on Monday 26th March but we would like children to bring projects in prior to this date for sharing in class. Nearly every junior child had a homework project to share last term; it would be fantastic for all children to participate this term!

SATs Preparation

This term is crucial in preparing the children fully for their SATs tests in the week commencing 14th May 2017. It is imperative that all children are present at school during test week. They are compulsory, externally set Key Stage 2 examinations in which all children must participate.

What we are doing at school:

- Extra teacher and TA input for individuals and small groups in SATs subjects
- Coaching for building confidence
- Practising whole SATs papers and individual questions
- CGP Maths homework books for every child with SATs style activities
- **Continuing to ensure a diverse, creative and interesting curriculum in addition to the necessary practice required for SATs! (Very important!)**

How you can help at home:

- Read for pleasure: high quality novels and for sustained periods of time to build speed and stamina. (20 minutes plus)
- Keep up to date with the homework set in CGP Maths books and with the English homework grid.
- Use studyzonetv website to revise SPAG (Log ins stuck in home/school diaries). Myminimaths.co.uk is also an excellent free maths revision website.
- Practise the statutory spelling lists as we expect some to appear in the tests.
- Encourage children not to panic but read and talk homework through and come and talk to one of the teachers in Year 6 if help is needed. We are all happy to help.
- Don't panic! We are all working together.



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PE Kits:

PE lessons this term are on Fridays. Please keep an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school which should consist of PE pumps/trainers, navy shorts/dark tracksuit bottoms, house coloured T shirt and a change of socks.

Uniform:

The usual uniform rules continue to apply during Year 6. Jewellery should not be worn except earring studs and although hoodies and trainers can be brought to school for park visits, each child needs school shoes and school top for class time.

Park Visits:

Weather permitting, Mr Brown and Mrs Gibbard continue to take Year 6 to Sandford Park Mon – Wed lunchtimes as a special Year 6 privilege and to give the older children more space to stretch their legs. As it is sometimes muddy, it is useful for the children to bring trainers for the park so as to avoid muddying our carpets and so that families don't have to keep cleaning school shoes at home!

Tissues:

As it is the season of coughs and colds, please could you send your child in with a small packet of tissues if they require them.

And Finally.....

I apologise for the length of this letter but I hope you have found the information useful. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to any of us if you have any queries or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Helen Calder and Mr Adrian Brown

