



SAINT JOHN'S

Tuesday 11th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 6 children,

Welcome to Year 6!

We have already had a fantastic start to the academic year! The children have arrived focused and enthusiastic to learn and we are looking forward to the children behaving as excellent role models for the rest of the school.

I apologise in advance for the length of our first termly class letter but I hope you will find lots of useful information and important dates.

*** Please keep this letter so you can refer to it throughout the term.***

Our topic for the term is 'Victorious Victorians'.

Teaching Arrangements.

I will be teaching Monday to Wednesday all day and Thursday morning. I will be sharing Year 6 with Mr Brown, who will teach every Thursday afternoon and all of Friday. Mrs Bearman is the Y6 class TA. The table below shows you which staff will be with Year 6 on a daily basis so there should always be someone to talk to should you need a member of staff.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Y6 class teacher	Mrs Calder	Mrs Calder	Mrs Calder	Mrs Calder AM Mr Brown PM	Mr Brown
Y6 intervention teacher	Mr Brown AM/PM	Mr Brown AM/PM	Mr Brown AM/PM	Mr Brown AM	

PE

The children will require PE kits (coloured house T shirt), blue/black shorts and pumps) to be kept in school. They may also bring in tracksuit bottoms and tops (preferably navy/black) and trainers for outdoor PE. Swimming begins on Monday 17th September.

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Victorian Day

On Wednesday 26th September, we are having a Victorian School Day. The children are invited to come to school in Victorian clothing (rich or poor!) and will be taught in the Victorian style for a whole day! Be warned – Victorian teachers were VERY strict!!

Other dates

Maths Breakout – Monday 5th November

Library trips - dates to be confirmed (please complete the online registration form using the following link: <https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/gloslibraries/join>

This will allow the children to take a book out on the day.)

Holst Museum trip – Monday 3rd December

Waitrose trip - Wednesday 5th December

Recommended Reading

Our main class novel during the first half term is Street Child by Berlie Doherty. (Quite a tear jerker!) We have copies to use in class but it would obviously be an advantage for the children to buy or borrow a copy to read at home.

Any other research about Victorians will be very interesting and useful for the children. There are also some excellent recommendations on the website www.booksfortopics.com/victorians.

Homework

Below is a Homework timetable for this term, with deadlines and the teacher responsible clearly marked. Please note, there is more homework in Year 6 than Year 5 and it will be vital for your child to keep their home/school diary in school to make notes where deadlines are flexible or finishing class tasks are required. The homework project is about any aspect of Victorians and can be brought in any time this term. Obviously, we will be able to share and enjoy children's projects for longer if they are handed in earlier.

Day homework set	Subject	Teacher in charge and deadline
Ongoing activities 3 times a week (minimum suggestion)	Home reading Times Tables practice Spelling lists	Checked by T/TA on Guided Reading day.
Monday:	Maths CGP books	Deadline: following Friday Mr Brown
Tuesday:	Literacy: Choose from weekly tasks.	Deadline following Tuesday weekly Mrs Calder
Wednesday:	Work on homework project	Flexible deadline – one per whole term
Thursday:		
Friday:	Science	Occasional Mr Brown



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Class Dojo

Please sign up for Class Dojo which has been successfully trialled in other classes. An individual letter with your sign up details was handed out on day 1. Dojo allows easier communication of messages to parents and sharing of pupils' work. As Class Dojo is not checked during lesson time or out-of-hours, please communicate urgent messages via the school office. For any issue requiring discussion, please make an appointment with a teacher for a face to face meeting via the home/school diaries.

Is Year 6 all about homework and SATS?

At Saint John's, we try really hard to reach a healthy balance between ensuring our children are 'secondary ready' and able to do their best in the SATs tests and making sure they have access to a broad and exciting curriculum. There will be plenty of educational visits and making use of our local area to enhance the children's learning. We recognise that children have strengths in many different subject areas and want to give them opportunities across the curriculum. The last thing we want is stressed children (and stressed teachers!).

And finally...

We are all looking forward to teaching Year 6 this academic year! It really is a very exciting year group both for the teachers and the children. There is a lot of hard work involved for us all but there is also a lot of fun too. The children will be role models for the rest of the school and usually enjoy the extra responsibilities and privileges that accompany being in Year 6, as they prepare for the independence that comes with secondary education next academic year.

We look forward to meeting all of you at the first Parent Consultations in October.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs H Calder and Mr A Brown

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