

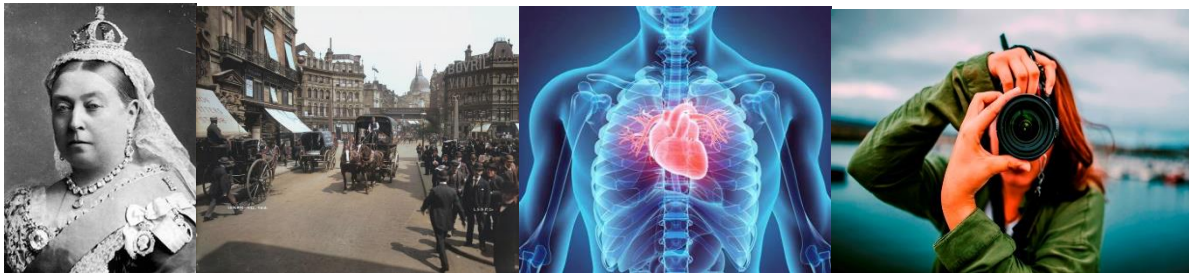
Friday 6th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year and the beginning of the children's Year 6 journey. We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful summer and are looking forward to an exciting new term at Saint John's. It has been lovely getting to know each of the children a little better and to see their enthusiasm for learning and the positive energy that they bring to the classroom.

This term we will be using key questions to drive our learning in our curriculum subjects rather than a central theme. Year 6 have some really interesting topics to investigate this term, which I am really looking forward to sharing with them.

Please see the Termly Overview document on the website for further details of what we will be learning about this term.



Swimming

This term, Year 6 we will be swimming every Wednesday morning during the Autumn Term. Please can you ensure that the children have appropriate swimming attire for their lesson (no bikinis or long Bermuda swimming shorts, please), a towel and swimming goggles, if possible, and a separate bag to carry it all.

Our swimming sessions will begin in Week 3, Wednesday 20th September.

PE

Our PE slots this term will be on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon and children should come to school dressed in their Saint John's PE Kits. However, during the first half of the autumn term, we have been lucky enough to be invited to Cheltenham College to be coached in hockey using the college's equipment and facilities. This coaching will take place on a Wednesday, straight after our swimming session. Therefore, for the first 6 weeks of term, children will only be required to come dressed in PE kits on Wednesdays. After the hockey coaching has finished, we will revert to a Thursday afternoon slot for our second PE session. I will send reminders and further communication regarding this, via Class Dojo, nearer the time.

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Homework

We are keen to promote 'Reading for Pleasure' in Year 6. Not only is it an essential skill for all areas of the curriculum, but is also a wonderful form of entertainment, escapism, adventure and relaxation. Therefore, we would like to ensure that the children are getting the opportunity to develop and enjoy this skill. As part of their homework, we would like the children to read at least three times a week. We will be looking for the children to record any reading in their Home School Diary. You do not have to read with your child (although this can be a great way for your child to read aloud and practise skills such as intonation and expression) but it would be helpful if you could ensure that reading is recorded. If reading is not recorded, it may be necessary for us to hear children read during their own time (break times) so that we can ensure that they are given the opportunity to read.

We will be checking Home School Diaries each Monday for entries.

Weekly spellings will also be set for the children to practise and learn throughout the week. These spellings will be set on Monday and will be tested on Friday.

A piece of maths or English homework will also be set on a Monday to be handed in on Friday. This work will usually be aligned to what we are learning in class but from time-to-time it may also be revision of an area already covered.

We have also asked that children spend at least 15 minutes a week on TT Rockstars, an online platform for times table practice. The children are all familiar with it and it is used whenever possible in class, but any extra activity on this would be hugely beneficial for your child to improve and retain their recall skills of number facts.

Finally, towards the end of each "big" term, we would like the children to research an area of the curriculum further that we have investigated and to produce a piece of project work of their choosing. We have some fascinating and interesting topics to cover this year, so I am hopeful that there will be something that grabs their attention and drives them to create something of their own, in an area that sparks their interest.

We hope that you have found the above information useful and we look forward to working with you.

Kind regards,

Mr Jones and Mrs Whalley

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