



Dear children, parents and carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a brilliant summer holiday and the children feel refreshed after a well-deserved break and are ready for an exciting but challenging year in Class 6. I am on paternity leave this week so the children will be having their three specialist art days with Mrs Dyminski and two days later in the week with Mrs Drew. I will be back in school on Monday 9th September.

This term our Christian value in focus is 'Thankfulness' and worship time in school will focus on this. We are starting the year with the whole-school learning metaphor 'Life in all its fullness' and the children will be spending some time considering how we are all, despite our many differences, made in God's image and that this wide variety is a masterpiece. We will also be investigating climate change, climate justice and how evenly the world's resources are distributed across continents. In English this term, we will be reading the book 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgwick. It is a brilliant novel set in a dystopian world and one that the children will really enjoy. In Maths we will be focusing on place value: we will be looking at numbers up to 10,000,000 as well as rounding and negative numbers.

PE

Mr Tanner will be teaching Class 6 PE on Thursday afternoons so please ensure your child comes to school in PE kit (trainers, navy blue shorts/skorts, joggers and house colour top only - no football tops and if a house colour top cannot be provided then a white t-shirt please). I am very excited to share with you that for this half term Year 6 PE lessons will also include fencing with Neil Bromley from Swindon Fencing Club; the children had a taster session at the end of Year 5 which I know they really enjoyed. The 6-week fencing course for Year 6 (at cost of approx. £10 per session per child) for Year 6 is funded by the school as part of our affordability project so no additional cost to parents but a brilliant opportunity for our Y6 children to achieve level 1 fencing. It may even lead to some children taking up the sport and joining the local Cricklade fencing club outside school. There may be a small charge to parents of around £4 to buy a level 1 certificate and badge at the end but this is optional.

Home Learning

Homework this year will be set via Doodle. Homework tasks will be set on a Wednesday and will need to be completed by the following Tuesday. The first homework of this year will be set on **Wednesday 11th September**.

Reading

In Year 6, our expectation is that children read each day for at least 20-30 minutes. Children can read independently or to an adult daily. We expect every child to record their daily reading so that we can keep track of their progress. Please support your child by reminding them to complete this task each day - thank you. There are bronze, silver and gold reading bookworms available to earn and weekly reading merits so hopefully your child will be earning one in the very near future if they haven't already!

Spellings

The children will continue to practise spelling rules in school and build them into their writing (as per the overview and in line with the National Curriculum) but will not bring home spellings to practise for weekly tests as they did previously. We are looking to try and apply their spelling into their free writing rather than just through set weekly tests and really focus on the rules. There will be spelling tests in school based on these rules but they will not be set weekly and we will analyse the rules they need to work on. You can still support with this at home as the children can practise their spellings using the Doodle platform and via Spelling Shed <https://play.spellingshed.com>.

Affordability

This year's main trip for Year 6 is our **4-day residential to London** (24th - 27th June 2025). The cost will be in the region of £320 for 4 days food, accommodation and a range of amazing visits including to a West end show. We do our absolute best to organise everything ourselves in order to keep the trip as excellent value as we can. We will have an exact idea of cost once we have provisionally booked the activities and a letter for this will go out this term with a deposit request but advance warning will help families budget for this excellent value opportunity. In December we will go on our annual pantomime trip (date tbc). The cost for this will be approximately £20 per pupil for the show, ice cream/sorbet and transport by coach.

Dates for the term:

Forest School sessions: Tuesday 10th September, Tuesday 8th October (old comfy clothes for outdoor learning to be worn).

PE sessions: Thursday afternoons.

Stay and Share session: Tuesday 12th November 9-9.30.

Quidditch Day: Wednesday 6th November all day (sports kit to be worn).

Leavers advanced dates: Monday 21st July 1.30pm Holy Cross church leavers service (presentation of pens and books), 6pm Leavers show evening performance and Tuesday 22nd July 11am Leavers performance and the annual Year 6 v parents rounders match will take place at 1.30pm.

Thank you for all of your support and here's to a brilliant year!
Mr Hockaday