

Year 6 Letter from Mrs Davies

4th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to St Francis to all parents and families of the Year 6 pupils – I am looking forward to working with you all again! The children will be also supported in class by Mrs Taylor and Mrs Murali. My PPA time will continue to be on a Thur PM, when I will be covered by Mrs Mullis (PE) and Mrs Lightfoot (Modern Foreign Languages).

The playground door will be open each morning from 8.50am to allow the children time to get into the classroom before school begins at 8.55am. Please try to ensure your child is at school on time each day. At hometime, Year 6 will exit through the Year 6 classroom door near to the bike racks. This should ease congestion at the playground door and in the Year 5 cloakroom.

Our topic this term is The Victorians, during which we will be learning about the Industrial Revolution, the lives of rich and poor Victorians including some famous Victorian people and we will be taking a trip to Beamish (letter about this to follow soon). During this topic, we will be reading some books set in the era and doing lots of other lovely activities and crafts. Please see the Topic Overview attached to this letter to see how the learning in the rest of the curriculum is broken down.

As ever, your role in your child's education is very important and I would ask that you support me at home by ensuring your child reads on a daily basis, practises their spellings and Mental Maths facts (tables including division facts) and completes any homework set.

- Reading – at this age, it is not necessary to read to an adult all of the time; the children should be reading independently daily and to an adult at least once a week. They should record what they are reading in their Homework Diary and complete some reading tasks in their Reading Journal (information on this to follow). It would be helpful if you signed the Homework Diary whenever you hear your child read. Please take the time to ask your child about what they are reading, particularly if they have been reading on their own. This will help you to gauge whether they have understood what they have read and whether they are able to recall information about the book.
- Spelling – The children will be continuing to learn the spelling patterns for their year group as well as revising spelling patterns from previous year groups. This will be taught through spelling lessons at least three times a week in school and will be supplemented by spelling homework and spellings to learn at home. As last year, I will send spellings home each Monday to be learned for an assessment the following Monday. Please remind your child to practise these spellings several times over the week. When you have time, it would be extremely beneficial for your child to recap on spellings from previous weeks too.
- Homework – your child will be given homework as and when it fits in with what we have covered in school. I might ask them to practise something we have been doing in class or to research something in preparation for a lesson. The children will begin to bring home some practice SATs style questions later in the year in order to get them accustomed to the style of questioning. Children should record any homework in their Homework Book; they will have had the task explained to them in school. Please ensure that your child completes their homework using suitable writing equipment e.g. not felt pens, and to a high standard.

A big focus in school this year will be **resilience**. We will be spending time discussing what this means and will be promoting it in various ways: inspiring the children to challenge themselves more; encouraging the children to solve problems more independently; supporting the children to persevere even when they find something tricky; assisting the children to overcome friendship issues and maintain friendships; but most of all, discouraging an attitude of 'giving up'. We want our pupils to be **strong, positive, resilient, responsible and happy** children, and this is especially true of the Year 6 pupils who are role models for the rest of the school.

To this end, I will be strongly encouraging a more responsible and resilient attitude from the pupils in Year 6, supporting them to be the best role models they can be. I will expect that all Year 6 children are able to organise their own equipment, including clothing and anything they need bring from home such as PE kits and reply slips for letters. They should be able to access what they need at school without adult support e.g. changing books, accessing dictionaries and other classroom equipment. I would be very grateful if you can try to carry this over at home as much as possible.

I realise that this can be a contentious issue as we all feel our children are still very young but please allow them some time to read alone, practise spellings and Maths facts alone and begin homework, as well as dedicating some time to sitting with them to do these tasks. This will hopefully give your child the skills they need to motivate themselves, manage their time and organise themselves well in preparation for later life.

PE will be taught by me on Tuesdays and Mrs Mullis on Thursdays. Please ensure your child has their kit in school on these days – as stated in the Uniform Policy, they require a white T-shirt and dark shorts as well as trainers. It is often sensible to include dark coloured tracksuit bottoms and a warmer top to wear over their T-shirt during the colder months as the children are generally outside for most PE sessions for up to an hour. I will encourage the children to bring their PE kit home each Friday to be washed if it is dirty. Please note that it is school policy for children to wear a school PE kit for PE sessions – this MUST be named as children do tend to mix up their clothing accidentally when getting changed. On this note, please can you ensure all of your child's clothing and other belongings are marked with their names as this class are particularly scatty when it comes to keeping their possessions tidy!

I am hoping to hold a Parents' Information Meeting about the end of KS2 assessment procedures; I will send a separate letter about this in the next couple of weeks. I hope to give some valuable and important information about the testing procedures and an opportunity to look through some recent test papers. This should be a helpful meeting for any parent who has not recently had a child in Y6.

As always I am available to speak to if you have any concerns about your child – after school is much better than first thing in the morning. We have a staff meeting on a Monday evening so I don't have much time then, but I am free Tue, Wed and Fri if you need me. You can also contact me via my email address frmdavies@sbcschools.org.uk . It is best if you make an appointment via Mrs Douglas or Miss Pickering if you feel you need a longer chat.

Finally, I thank you in advance for your support and wish your child a happy and productive year,

Mrs Davies