



# St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Welcome to Year 6!

Our new topic, **Please Sir Can I Have Some More?** is off to a great start! Our whole school topic is London based, so Year 5 and 6 have started learning about London using the Monopoly board game as a stimulus. We have played the game in class, used Monopoly money to practise our maths skills, and researched some of the places from the board game. Later in the term our learning will be based around Victorian London. Accompanying this letter is a detailed Topic Map which shows which aspects of the curriculum will be addressed within this exciting new topic.

Each week, the children will have a **PE session** on a Thursday afternoon, and a **Forest School** session on a Friday afternoon. Please help them to remember the appropriate kit they need for each session. For Forest School, the children need long trousers, warm top layers, a waterproof jacket, sturdy boots or wellies and a hat (for sunny sessions!). They should NOT wear shorts or cropped trousers as they will not be able to access all areas on the Forest School site safely. For PE, the children should have, in a PE bag, the following items; a plain white t-shirt, a pair of blue or black shorts, a pair of blue, grey or black joggers, a blue, black or grey sweatshirt, and a pair of sports trainers (not Converse type shoes please!) Children with earrings will need to remove them independently for all PE sessions – a little container to keep them in would be useful on PE days! Year 6 will do their **swimming sessions** after half term – a letter will follow later in the term. **Cycling proficiency** sessions for Year 6 will start soon – more details to follow.

As the children move through Year 6, the **homework** they receive becomes more important as a way to practise key skills independently, and to better prepare them for the greater independence and self-organisation they will need next year. Each child has a **Homework Diary** which I hope will help them with this – we'll record homework details, messages and reminders in it, so it is important that they have it in school each day. They'll also have a **Homework Book** for written tasks. There are three elements to the homework in Year 6, which will be given out on a **Tuesday** and will be due in the following **Monday**;

- 1) A **Reading** response task each week, which they will have a week to complete.
- 2) Each child will be set tasks to help them practise the **Maths** we have been learning in class, either using the 'MyMaths' online resource, or as a written task. Please let me know if, for any reason, your child cannot access MyMaths from home.
- 3) A **Spelling or Grammar** task linked to our spelling and grammar class work.

In addition, the children will have a **Speed Maths** sheet stuck into their homework book. Speed Maths is a programme that helps children improve the speed and fluency of their mental calculations. We will practise in class and have a weekly test – so any extra practice done at home using the sheet will help!

I use 'Class Dojo' to award points to children for positive behaviours such as working hard, having a go, excellent presentation of work, kindness etc... I already use the 'Class Story' feature on Class Dojo – which means I share photos showing what the children are up to – and soon I hope to use the 'Student Story' feature too – children will be able to photograph work they are proud of and upload it to their own timeline, which only you will be able to see. If you haven't already, please register on the website and join the class – the children have been given a new copy of the sign up letter, so if you have mislaid the original, please prompt them to give you the new one! Although there is a message feature on Class Dojo which I may use occasionally to send out reminders, we have as a school decided to not use the messaging service as a



method of communication by parents to teachers and ask you to continue to contact the office (via phone or the office email account) if you need to contact me, or pop in and see me before or after school.

### **Helping Out in Year 6**

We really welcome any offers of help to support our learning in Year 6; specifically, we would really like parent helpers to supervise groups of children working on our herb garden on Wednesday mornings; parent helpers to help supervise the children undertaking Cycling Proficiency training; and occasional help when we go out on local trips. Please come and speak to one of us you can help – we will really appreciate it!

<b>Term 1 Y6 dates:</b>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Drop In – After school 3:00 – 4:00
	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Autumn Fair
	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Y6 PE morning at Wallingford School
	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Celebration
	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Afternoon

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns or to send us an email via the 'office' email account – [office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Ms J Purkess Beckett and Mrs J Brotherton