



# St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Welcome to Year 6!

What an amazing start to Year 6! Our Yenworthy experience was brilliant – and your children did you proud! Not only did they all challenge themselves with the physical activities, but they showed an admirable independence and resilience in other ways too, from trying (and liking!) new foods, to being well-prepared for each day's activities, to hoovering and tidying their rooms. Hopefully you will see the benefits at home; I certainly have in school!

Our new whole school topic is '**Making a Splash**', and we will incorporate some Yenworthy follow up work into this, focussing on a comparison between the River Lyn and the Thames alongside learning about the Lynmouth Flood Disaster of 1952. Later in the term we will move our focus further afield to the River Ganges and India. At the Open Afternoon just before half term you will be able to see some of the work generated from our time at Yenworthy. 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 Wednesday 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 five elements to the homework in Year 6, the details of which are stuck into the front of their homework books. Homework will be given out on a **Tuesday** and will be due in the following **Monday**.

I use the 'Class Story' feature on **Class Dojo** – which means I share photos showing what the children are up to, as well as adding (hopefully!) helpful messages when appropriate. I hope to use the 'Student Story' feature soon 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. Although there is a message feature on Class Dojo, 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 Monday, Tuesday or Thursday afternoons; 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>	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Drop In – After school 3:00 – 4:00
	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Y6 PE morning at Wallingford School
	Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Autumn Fair
	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Celebration
	Thursday 19 <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 A Perry