

Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Dear Parents & Children of Class 6,

Welcome back to Cobham! We are so excited to have all of you back at school after what has been the most unusual and surprising year. Before thinking ahead to this academic year, we just wanted to say a huge **well done** to all of you (children AND parents; the children have told us how amazing you have all been) for working so hard at home last year and for staying positive in the face of adversity. It has certainly been a challenging time!

This year, your Year 6 team consists of: Miss Slade, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Hargrove. We are all looking forward to an exciting year with this amazing Year 6! We will do everything within our power to support the children back into routines at school and to help them become accustomed to the 'new normal'. I completely understand that some of you are worried about what has been missed from the last part of Year 5 but we are all here to ensure the children get full coverage of the Year 6 National Curriculum and we will address any gaps from Year 5 as we move forward. We will help, challenge and support the children as they continue their journey at Cobham, starting to prepare them for the demands of secondary school.

Now that it is finally September, we are all ready for a fresh start! I hope that you all had a wonderful break over the summer so that you are rested and ready for the challenges of Year 6. I cannot wait to get to know all of the children and to get started on our exciting Year 6 curriculum. This year, we have so many wonderful topics to explore together, which I know the children are going to love. Hopefully, they will come home telling you all about our learning and what they have discovered!

English

I am genuinely excited for our English learning this year - we are going to study some incredible books! The children will love expanding their horizons by covering a range of genres and some challenging texts, which will help them to build up their vocabulary and write in an increasingly mature style.

In Term 1, to link in with our History unit, we will be reading genuine letters home from soldiers at war, *The Lost Thing* and *Goodnight Mr Tom*. In Term 2, we will be studying *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, as well as be looking at real-life newspaper articles.

In Year 6, there will be a greater focus on grammar, enabling the children to include advanced punctuation and more complex sentence structures in their writing.

As always, (because I am sure you have been told every year!) it is crucial that the children continue to learn their spellings and to read at home; the difference that these activities make to their writing is immense. **The children should be reading daily and recording this in their reading records, which we will be tracking daily for our Year 6 Reading Challenge.**

It is absolutely fantastic that so many of the children are avid readers and enjoy all sorts of stories. Please encourage them to read some non-fiction texts from time to time too - it is brilliant to have a varied diet where reading is concerned!

Spelling contracts will be given out on a Thursday and tests will be the following Thursday morning. As always, (because I am sure you have been told this many times before too!) it is important to remember that we don't just learn spellings to achieve a good mark in a test: we learn spellings so that we can incorporate them into our discussions and into our writing.

Maths

This year, we have new concepts to learn and new challenges to explore! The children will consolidate their mathematical skills and will then be applying their understanding to problem-solving situations. As the year progresses, we will develop our understanding to work with larger numbers in different contexts, moving onto solving more complex multi-step word problems.

In Term 1, we will be developing our understanding of Place Value and all four operations. In Term 2, we will be moving on to look at Fractions, as well as Position and Direction.

Times tables are still hugely important and it will make calculating with large numbers considerably easier if they have a quick recall of their times tables. Continue to learn and practise these at home!

Maths homework will be given out on a Monday and we will mark it together the following Monday morning.

Science

Our topic in Term 1 is Animals Including Humans, in which we will be learning about the circulatory system before looking at how to stay healthy. In Term 2, we will be exploring Electricity, which involves lots of investigative work! The children will be learning about and designing their own circuits. Throughout Year 6, we will be developing our scientific knowledge and building on scientific skills.

Foundation Subjects

At Cobham, we will be continuing with all of our Foundation Subjects to ensure that the children receive a full and well-rounded experience of the National Curriculum. Please have a look at our yearly overview on the school website to find out what topics we will be studying this year!

The children will receive a homework task related to one of their foundation subjects every Thursday. This will be due in the following Thursday (although the children can bring it in to put in the homework box before the deadline if it has already been completed).

We will not be sending out any homework until next week, to allow the children a chance to settle back in and get used to being back at school.

Homework is a really important part of Year 6; it develops independence and organisational skills, which are crucial for secondary school. I will be encouraging the children to inform myself or Mrs Kelly if there are any problems with their homework and we will happily spend time going over it with them.

E-Safety

www.bbc.co.uk/ownit

You may have seen the TV campaign for the BBC "Own It" website for children aged 9 years - 12 years. This will be predominantly aimed for our children in Year 5 and in Year 6. I wanted to bring your attention to this website again as an excellent source of information and support for your child's life online. The website quotes the following objectives; "Own It brings a child's perspective of online life and the issues it throws up. It covers everything from online privacy and avoiding malware, through to dealing with everyday dilemmas children face online, as well as having fun. Quick links to charities and organisations like Childline, whose phone lines and online chat can provide urgent support should children need it, will also be available."

Every year, I have many children who are apprehensive about coming into Year 6, believing that it will be a scary and overwhelming year. I promise you all now: Year 6 is a truly brilliant year! We will have lots of fun together and we will learn so many new things. We will create some amazing memories together and you will make Mrs Saunders and the Year 6 team proud!

Finally, if you have any worries or problems, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always available at the end of the school day or you can contact the school office at any time to arrange a meeting.

Bring on Year 6!

Kind Regards,
Miss Slade, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Hargrove