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5<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Year 6. We hope you had a wonderful summer. This year the staff will be Lesley Pettitt, Tania Garrod (before she starts her maternity leave) then Karen Donaghey, Blanka Tropp (am), Kym Sherriff (pm) and Sarah Fletcher on a Tuesday afternoon. Tania Garrod and Karen Donaghey will be teaching every Tuesday morning and Sarah Fletcher will be in the class on a Tuesday afternoon. Lesley Pettitt will be teaching Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week. Blanka Tropp and Kym Sherriff will be in the classroom every day.

This letter provides useful information for year 6 and we have also attached a timetable and curriculum map for Term 1 which runs from September to December.

#### Open classroom

You are welcome to join us in the year 6 classroom after school on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 3pm to 3:30pm. This is an opportunity for your child to show you around the classroom and for you to meet us and ask any questions you may have. Karen Donaghey will be available in the hall to meet parents particularly parents who are new to the school.

#### Communication

We welcome you to come and chat to us with any queries or concerns. Please do feel free to talk to us. You can find us before registration for anything that needs to be shared immediately, or after school for a quick chat, or if you prefer, make an appointment with us. Parent consultations will be coming up just before the first half term, but do come and chat to us with any queries in the meantime.

#### Drop-off/Pick-up & Registers

- The children arrive and depart via our own classroom door, which opens onto the KS1 playground.
- School opens at 08:45 and we take the register promptly at 08:55.
- The outside classroom door closes at 08:55, so if you are late for any reason, please ensure that you come into school with your child via the main entrance and report to the office where you can sign your child in as late and order a school lunch if appropriate. Your child will then be directed to class.
- At 3pm all children will be released onto the playground. The school expects children to return to the classroom/school if they cannot find their adult on the school playground. If your child will be walking to and from school without an adult, the school requires a signed letter from the parents/carer stating that their child is allowed to do so. This is to ensure the safety of the child, for example, if we are aware that a child walks alone to school and they are not present at register we would alert the parents immediately. Please make sure your child knows if they are expected to return home immediately from school or whether you allow them some playtime before returning home. Once the child has left the building at 3pm the staff are no longer responsible for supervision so it is very important that your child knows their after school routine.

### Absence

- Please let us know in advance if your child has a medical or similar appointment and will need to be taken out of school or to arrive late.
- If your child is ill, please ring, email or text the office as soon as possible on each day of absence.
- Permission for any other absence during school time needs to be sought in advance by completing a request form available from the office. Permission for such absence is at the discretion of Mrs Donaghey and can never be authorised by the class teachers.

### Reading

The children will have the opportunity to visit the school library regularly on a Monday and to choose a book which may be taken home and returned when finished. Please encourage your child to read at home daily. Reading is a wonderful life skill and we want children to love reading. The more the children read, the more words they are exposed to and these words gradually and inevitably make their way into the children's vocabulary. This assists with all areas of the children's learning, helps their confidence in speaking aloud and especially helps with ideas for their writing. There will be a big focus on reading throughout the school this year. We would love the children to recommend good books that they have read to us to help inspire others.

Current research confirms that the most effective form of homework is reading. Children who read regularly at home will have greater success in other subjects at school. This year for homework we expect all children to read every day. In Year 1, 2 and 3, reading diaries are sent home every night and we ask parents to write in the book every day. In Year 4, 5 and 6 children should be able to write in their own diaries (as discussed in class) but we request that parents sign reading diaries once a week. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

### Homework

Homework to supplement the whole school push on reading will now take the form of learning homework rather than written set work each week. Learning set maybe in the form of spellings, number facts, grammar or times tables. The focus is practice and remembering what is learnt. The children are expected to retain huge amounts of information as part of the curriculum and they need to be able to build on prior knowledge to move on. Most learning set will be whole class but some may also be personalised. Please ask if you are unsure of what is expected. Homework will be set on a Wednesday and is expected to be completed by Monday. In Year 6, we are preparing for secondary school so homework will be more formal than the rest of the school.

### PE

PE lessons are on Tuesday and Fridays. We are sometimes able to add an additional PE session, so please make sure your child's full PE kit is in school at the beginning of each week. This should include named trainers, shorts and a T-shirt for PE lessons. Please tie long hair back. We will be using our outdoor spaces as much as possible, so your child may also like to have a sweatshirt and leggings or track suit bottoms to wear on cooler days.

### Tissues

As we enter Autumn and Winter, tissues are always useful in the classroom. If you are able to donate a box of tissues to the class it would be much appreciated.

### Pencil cases

We have everything that your child needs to use in school so they don't need to bring in pencil cases.

### Mobile phones

Most children seem to be given a mobile phone as part of the transition to secondary school but they are not allowed in primary school. Therefore, if your child does get a phone this year and brings it to school then it must be handed in at the office during the school day for safekeeping.

### Yenworthy

Our residential trip is from the 2nd-6th March 2020. Hopefully you have already received the letter about this trip.

### Cycling Proficiency

We hope that all children will take part in cycling proficiency training later this year. Further information will follow in the spring.

### Secondary school open evenings/mornings

Matthew Arnold open evening- Thurs 3rd Oct (5.30 - 8pm)

Matthew Arnold open morning - Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Oct (9-11.30am)

Cherwell school open evening- Thurs 3rd Oct (6 - 8pm)

Cherwell school open morning - Tues 8<sup>th</sup>/Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Oct - please check website

The Swan school open evening - Tues 8<sup>th</sup> October (5-7pm)

The Swan school open mornings - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> October (9.30-10.45am)

Bartholomew school open evening - Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> September (5.30pm onwards)

Bartholomew school open morning - Tues 1<sup>st</sup> October and Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> October (9am onwards)

Gosford Hill school Open evening - Wed 25<sup>th</sup> September (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

Gosford Hill school Open morning - Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> September (9:15 am - 10:45 am)

We are looking forward to getting to know your child and we hope to have lots of interesting and exciting experiences together.

Lesley Pettitt, Tania Garrod/Karen Donaghey, Blanka Troop, Kym Sherriff and Sarah Fletcher  
September 2019