

Dear Year 6 Children and Parents,



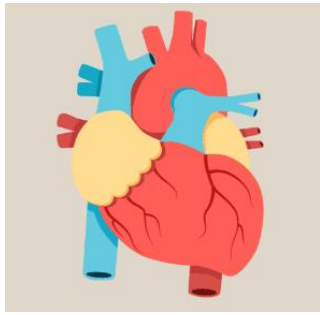
Firstly, let me start with a heart-felt welcome back! We are all delighted to welcome you back to school and hope that you managed to stay safe and well during lockdown. Obviously things in school are a little different now and we have routines in place to ensure that the classroom and school is a safe environment for us to work and learn in.

This year we are lucky enough to have 4 members of staff in Year 6: Mrs Smith - a fabulous Teaching Assistant with many years' experience in Year 6; Mrs Mein - another brilliant Teaching Assistant who loves maths; the lovely Mrs Tonkin - who lots of you know from Year 3 and who will be teaching you on a Friday and myself - Mrs Gray. Please be assured that throughout the year we will be working together very closely as a team to ensure consistency and the absolute best for you all.

As you will know from Mrs Berry's letter to you at the end of the summer term, the timings of the school day are changing for lots of us. Please can I remind you that in Year 6, children need to be arriving at school between 8:40am and 8:55am, remembering to follow social distancing guidelines. Year 6 children and parents will need to enter through the blue gate beside Mrs Berry's office and walk to the back classroom door where myself or another member of Year 6 staff will be waiting to welcome you straight into the classroom.

At the end of the day, please remember that timings have also changed a little. In order to follow government guidelines and limit the number of people gathering on the school site, we have a collection window between 3pm and 3:15pm. If you are collecting in this window, we ask that an adult collects from the rear classroom door and that children are not leaving the school site on their own. Please ensure that if other parents are waiting in the patio area outside the classroom, you remain at the top of the stairs until your pathway is clear. However, if you give permission for your child to walk home, you must sign a permission form, that has been sent out via Parent Mail, and your child will be walked around the building and dismissed at 3:15pm. We will hold them until 3:15pm to ensure other parents and children are off site and they can socially distance when leaving the school site.

Please can I also remind you that PE kits should be brought in on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. In Year 6, we have PE on Monday and Friday afternoons. PE kit must be in a named bag and on the children's peg. Due to current restrictions, we will be having PE outside unless the weather is horrendous therefore, you may wish to send a warm jumper in too.



Our topic for this half term is '**Blood, Bones and Body Bits**' where we will be reading the Malorie Blackman book 'Pig Heart Boy'. This story focussed on a child in need of a heart transplant and due to lack of human donors, receives a pioneering animal heart transplant. The text focusses on the moral dilemmas around the situation and provides excellent opportunities for argument and debate. Alongside this, we will be learning all about the human circulatory system and how to maintain healthy life-styles through diet and exercise.

TOPIC HOMEWORK!

To link with our topic, you should have received a homework grid outlining a selection of different tasks to be completed before the end of this half term. The grid consists of 4 columns with 4 different activities. Each activity has a given number of points and over the half term the children will need to complete a minimum of 35 points (of course they can exceed this number if they wish). It is important to make sure that at least one activity from each group is completed (A-D).

You will have the whole half term to complete your 35 points however I do advise that you don't leave it all to the last minute. Due to this, every other week we will ask you to bring in what you have done so far to check on your progress. You do not need to complete all of the activities in your homework book but can present them however you choose - posters, models, leaflets etc. Towards the end of the half term we will then have a day where you will need to bring all of your topic work in and we will share it together as a class.

Please do feel free to ask if you are unsure or need any support with the activities. Have fun!

SPELLINGS

Every week the children will have 5 spellings to learn from the statutory curriculum spelling list. These lists are given out for Y3/4 and Y5/6 at the beginning of the term and the children also have them stuck in the front cover of their Literacy books. Each week the children will have 5 to learn and on completion of these words will be given the next 5. The remainder of the spelling test will be on rules taught that week during spelling lessons. For example, if the rule learnt is how to turn singular nouns into plural nouns, the children will know the rules (change 'y' to an 'i' and add es, if it ends in th/sh/ch/x then add es etc) from their lessons and will be asked to practise this rule at home. During their spelling test the remaining 5 words might then be churches, foxes, babies, mountains and tables. The test will take place on a Friday morning and the children's new spelling will be sent home on the Monday at the very latest (where possible on the Friday).

TIMES TABLES

To support with speedy recall of times tables, we also ask that children spend no longer than 10 minutes completing their allocated challenges on Times Tables Rocks Stars (TTRS) at home.



MATHS & ENGLISH

Each week there will be maths and English homework set on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday. We will be introducing IXL, which is an interactive online learning platform, to support our English and Maths homework. This is in order to minimise potential contamination with resources moving between home and school on a regular basis. We will be sending more information out shortly to support you and your child with accessing this at home.



READING

In addition to the set homework I cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading. The children should be reading most evenings and discussing their texts. Please also remember to record reading in their journals provided.

Last year, Mrs Bladon introduced a new reading challenge across the school. This year, KS2 will still have a challenge but it will be slightly different. Please see details from Mrs Bladon below.

Key Stage Two - Vocabulary Challenge!

At St Augustine's, we believe that reading is an essential skill for all children and we hope that they enjoy reading for pleasure. This year, we are introducing a new 'Vocabulary Challenge' into Key stage 2. Our aim is to encourage children to develop their understanding of a range of vocabulary and to begin to apply this when reading independently and in their writing.

When a child achieves 30 'reads' this success will be shared in our Celebration Assembly on a Friday and children awarded with a special reading star badge. These badges can be worn proudly on their school jumpers! Additional badges can be won at 60 'reads', 100 'reads' and 150 'reads'.

We would like a 'read' to mean around 15-20 minutes of sharing a book with an adult.

1 'read' = 1 day.

Please use the yellow reading records to record not only reads but also new vocabulary from your reading and its meaning, these will be monitored by staff and added to the tally in class. Children should be prepared to discuss the new vocabulary with staff in school.

The competition is on!

PIP LETTERS

This year, we will be going paperless with our PiP letters. All homework expectations and an outline of what we have been learning across the week will be outlined on this letter and it will be uploaded on the Year 6 class tab on the school website every Friday.

MEET THE TEACHER

Normally we would hold a 'Meet the Teacher' evening in early September for you to come into the classroom and discuss the new routines and expectations of the new year group. Sadly, due to government guidelines, these will not be held in person. However, we will be uploading a PowerPoint presentation onto the 'Year 6' class page area of the school website on Friday 18th September for your reference. This will hopefully answer questions that you may have about the new school year. If you have any further questions, please do feel free to contact the school and arrange a time to meet and discuss any queries or concerns.

I am very much looking forward to this year and thank you in advance for your support. After what has been an unprecedented year so far, I am excited to get started in what will be a challenging but exciting year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Gray