



WEST HADDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term 1

Year 6

Welcome

I hope you have all had a restful summer and that your children have re-charged their batteries ready for the new school year. The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and are very eager to learn.

For your information, Mrs Dawson will be teaching the class on a Wednesday afternoon and Mr Stoneman on a Friday afternoon. The children will be supported daily by Mrs Dawson.

This year is obviously a very important one, with the SATs tests later in the summer. SATs award a 'grade', but more importantly the concepts covered in a SATs paper are those that the children will need to know for a successful transition into year 7 learning.

The children are looking forward to the roles and responsibilities that come in year 6. A particular favourite is the buddy system with reception children, for example where they help the younger children settle in the Lunch Hall. The experiences they have through buddying-up with the younger children helps them to develop a range of social skills and prepares them for the greater responsibilities that come in secondary school.

Maths & English

Teaching and learning in both maths and English is guided by the government's National Curriculum, and the gaps identified in earlier test papers. As well as daily English and maths lessons, we will run small-group interventions for a number of children. These are aimed at continuing to fill gaps in learning caused by the COVID19 disruption, and prepare children for SATs and a successful academic transition into secondary school.

The government and Ofsted continue to place a high level of importance to reading – as a sound reading ability allows children to access all subjects when they move to secondary schooling. Therefore, regular reading at home is crucial to success. To assist in this, the school has recently purchased an extension to the reading scheme. Year 6 will be taking home books from higher levels of this scheme. Please keep an eye out for these.

Dates and Things to Remember

Year 6 will have a whole afternoon of P.E. on Fridays. This session will be taught by Mr Stoneman. Please can children keep their PE kits in their lockers throughout the week so that they do not miss out on this important lesson.

It would be helpful if the children could also keep an old shirt (with long sleeves) at school to protect their school uniform when painting etc.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Thursday and needs to be handed in on a Tuesday. Spelling tests will take place on a Thursday. Completion of homework is essential for success in year 6.

The homework that we set is designed to secure their understanding of the topics covered in lessons. We will continue with a focus on *reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar, and maths*.

There are lists of 'expected' spellings for the different phases in a primary school (we call the year 3/4 spellings the 'Silver List' and the year 5/6 spellings the 'Gold List'). SATs spellings are based on these expectations. Therefore, year 6 focus on these lists and send home personalised spellings for each child related to their own gaps. Please look out for these, and ensure your child is learning them at home as a spelling from these lists is reissued each week until it is learned.

Topic

Our topic this term is Ancient Egypt. We will look at the hunt for Tutankhamun's tomb, the importance of the River Nile and many more aspects of this fascinating society. Full details can be found in the attached Knowledge Organiser.

Our Value for this month is: Friendship

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