

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hello, and welcome to the second half of the autumn term! It is a pleasure to be back in school, and I am delighted to say that the children have all picked up where they left off. They are full of enthusiasm and I am already delighted with their efforts. I hope that you all had a relaxing half term holiday and that the process of looking through your child's reading comprehension paper together was a useful and insightful process for you. Despite some mention of A levels and GCSEs in the press, there has been no news regarding KS2 SATS, so we will continue to prepare on the assumption that they are going to go ahead as usual.

Routines in year six – a recap. I'm sure you haven't forgotten

- **PE lessons** will be on Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. These slots are subject to change, depending on the hall's availability, but the children should come to school in their PE kits on that day. They will not need to get changed, and so will not need to bring in their school uniform.
- **Homework** will (usually) be given out on a Friday, and expected back in by the following Friday. Failure to complete homework on time may result in your child missing break times in order to complete it, or having it sent home again as double homework. It is their responsibility to collect and return homework. Please contact me (preferably before the hand in date!) if they are having a particular problem with it.
- **Reading at home** will continue to be important this year. There is a selection of books in the classroom which they will be free to choose from. They are also entitled to check out books from the school library. Your child should be aiming to read for a short amount of time (15-20 mins) every day - preferably to you as frequently as possible. Any help you can give them with this would be appreciated. Also, please don't forget that reading to your child at this age is still very useful, and will help them develop their language skills. We will continue to use the yellow reading records, and the expectation is that any time your child reads to you, this is recorded in the book. A date and your initials is fine. I will check them periodically to monitor the levels of reading at home.
- **Times tables** should also be practiced regularly. Your child is expected to know all of their times tables from 2-12 in year six. I think Christmas would be a good target to aim for - enabling them to be confident and fluent in mental calculation in good time for their tests. I am happy to offer advice and support in ways to encourage them to do this.

Reading Journals – PLEASE READ THIS

As I have mentioned before, I check the reading diaries regularly and tally up every child's total for each month. When doing this, I have found that some children are not taking their diaries home or are not bringing them into school. The diary and a reading book should travel to school and back every day, and all reading to a parent or other adult should be recorded in the record book and signed or initialled by the person being read to. Some children are reading to an adult at home nearly every night and have 30 or more entries per month. Unsurprisingly, their reading is improving at a very fast rate. Other diaries I look at have less than 5 entries or very occasionally none at all. I know we are all busy, but this does not take long, and it does make a huge difference. Besides which, having your children read to you is a pleasure. Take turns. Let your child go first and then you take over. Talk about the story together and enjoy the process.

Finally, please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything that you wish to discuss over the year. We are not currently arranging any face to face meetings, so this will need to be by email or over the phone.

I look forward to continue working with you over the year!

Yours sincerely,

Guy Redhead