

## Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your families have had a good and restful break and that your children are ready and keen to start their new academic year. As a staff team, we are already looking forward to the excitement and new opportunities which getting to teach a class of children brings. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the UKS2 Parent Curriculum Meetings on Thursday 19th September, with year 5's being at 6.30 in 5R's classroom and Year 6's being at 7.00 in 6M.

### Curriculum

In advance of the Curriculum Meeting, you will have been provided with an outline of what your year group will be covering in the curriculum this term. You will also be given a weekly timetable for the Autumn Term, however please do be aware this is changeable week on week dependent on trips, visitors etc.

### Reading

It is impossible to over emphasise the positive impact that reading has on your child's education and development. This key life skill, when learned and enjoyed at an early age, will improve your children's independent writing, expand their vocabulary, broaden their viewpoint on life, improve their concentration and expand their imagination. For these reasons, we would ask that you devote a little time each day for reading together with your son or daughter. Whatever form these sessions take: whether you share a book, take it in turns to read, listen to your child read or you are there to pose questions about what has been read, this is one of the best ways you can help your child.

### Accelerated Reader

The website to log on to is: <https://ukhosted59.renlearn.co.uk/6712885>

The child's user name comes from the initial of their first name and then the first 4 letters of their surname.

Eg: Grace Mizon would be gmizo

### Spelling

We really value your support in helping your child to learn the spellings which they bring home on a weekly basis. Opportunities are given during the school day for the children to learn these spellings, either on their own or with a 'spelling buddy'. We encourage you to check that your child is completing these weekly spelling sheets and rehearsing their new words each evening ahead of their spelling tests they will receive in class.

### Maths

This year we are extremely lucky to have many adults working in the team across Year 5 and 6 who will be available to support teaching in the maths. Consequently, we will be placing your children into one of two maths groups and having morning and in school interventions to ensure rapid and sustained progress for all children. We will use the data given to us by the year five teachers in conjunction with our own, new assessments of the children to determine which group they will be in and what interventions they require. If you have any queries or worries about this, please do contact your child's class teacher.

Children will be provided with targets each half term based upon the school's non-negotiable expectations. At the Curriculum Meeting a sheet will be given to you with some suggestions on how you can help your child achieve these targets.

### Times Tables Rock Stars

The website to log on to is: <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

The child's username is their surname with a capital letter. All children have been given their passwords confidentially.

### Religious Education and Worship

This year we are excited to continue with our new school values. These are: friendship, thankfulness, kindness, forgiveness, respect (for the environment), service and peace.

Each year group has been allocated with a spiritual value. During RE lessons and Class Worship time children will have the opportunity to learn and reflect upon their value using a range of resources, such as Biblical stories and verses, world news and events, and personal experiences.

The children will also be encouraged to take ownership of their year group value by thinking about how it could be implemented in to the school and wider community, for example raising money for charities or helping the school to be more eco-friendly.

The spiritual value for Year 6 is Peace and for 5 is Service.

### Homework

This year we have ordered homework books/folders in which we will file your child's completed homework. This allows us to give a whole week in which your child can do this work at the best and most convenient time for him or her and to promote general family harmony! All homework will be given out on Monday and will be expected to be handed in the following Monday.

A quick reminder: in the Upper Phase of the school, we now require that children who do not hand in their homework stay in during break time in order to complete this work.

### Timetable

A copy of your child's timetable is attached.

### Equipment

As usual, please can you check that your child has the following in school:

- Plimsolls, shorts and a t-shirt for PE lessons.
- Trainers, tracksuit bottoms and a spare pair of socks for Games.
- An art overall, which can simply be an old t shirt or shirt.
- Pencil cases should have pencils, a handwriting pen, rubber, pencil sharpener, two different coloured highlighters and a Pritt stick.
- A 30cm ruler, a protractor and a calculator are also desirable if not essential.

### Communication and Dates

You will find a summary of dates attached. As always, if you have any concerns, worries or just want a quick informal chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any of us. Catch us in the playground or email us at [year5@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:year5@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk) or [year6@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:year6@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk)

With very best wishes to all of you,

Grace Mizon  
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