

Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

Monday 7th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your families have had a 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 new class of children brings - especially after all that has happened in 2020 so far!

Normally we would be gathering for a Curriculum Evening in school at this time of year to discuss all the exciting opportunities Year 6 brings for your child but due to current guidelines this sadly cannot happen. Instead, we have pre-recorded our evening for you to watch remotely. It covers much of this letter in more detail and we hope that it gives you both an understanding and an insight into life in Year 6.

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 flourish as a learner!

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 spellings, accessing Readwriter 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 adults working in the team across Year 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.

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.

Homework

This year all homework will be completed online via the Google Classroom and other online platforms that your child is already familiar with (Readiwriter, Mathletics, TTRS, Accelerated Reader etc.). Homework will be set on a Monday and will need to be completed by the following Monday so that teachers can mark the work that your child has completed and assign new homework which is targeted to what they need. You will be able to find the weekly homework timetable on your child's Google Classroom so that it is clear for everyone what they must complete that week.

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

You will have access to your child's weekly timetable for the Autumn Term on their Google Classroom, however please do be aware this is changeable week on week dependent on trips, visitors etc.

Communication and Dates

As always, if you have any concerns, worries or just want a quick informal chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either of us via the year6@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk.

We very much look forward to the academic year ahead!

Kindest Regards,

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