

11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after far too long! We hope you all had a pleasant summer and are well rested for the exciting year ahead. We have certainly enjoyed our first week with our new Year 6 pupils. In our classes, we have been spending time getting to know all of the children, setting expectations and introducing our first topic, 'World War II'. As we wish to ensure that this term runs as smoothly as possible, here are a few key reminders and some important information so that all the children are well-prepared for their exciting year ahead!

Communication

As ever and despite current challenges regarding face-to-face contact, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight that we highly value the lines of communication between school and home. Therefore, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any queries or concerns by calling or emailing the school and your child's class teacher will respond as soon as possible. Furthermore, please do remember to check our school website, www.westfields-jun.hants.sch.uk, for the most recent school information which always includes dates of events.

Equipment

Now that your children are in Year 6, one of our aims will be to develop their independence in preparation for secondary school. Part of this independence includes being responsible for bringing all of the items they need into school which includes a coat, P.E. kits, pencil cases and learning resources such as their reading record and book. If your child has forgotten a vital piece of equipment and you wish to drop it into school, please do so via the red box outside reception. In addition to these items, if you wish to provide your child with their own hand sanitiser for use during the day, this is currently encouraged and we thank you for your support.

Home Learning

Home learning is essential as it allows children to share with you what they have been taught at school and further strengthen core skills explored during the school week. Activities are set weekly on a **Thursday** and should be completed and submitted/handed in by the following **Tuesday**. If you have any questions about a task or activity, please contact us as soon as possible in order that we can address these and support you in helping your child to gain the best from their learning. This year, the children will be using a new online platform called Class Dojo for setting and submitting home learning activities! Once we have orientated the children with how to use this resource, we will provide them with user details in their reading record. If you have any problems accessing this, please inform us so that we can assist.

Reading

As we are sure you know, reading is fundamental to all areas of learning and is also incredibly fun! Children are expected to read at least five times a week and record this in their reading record which should be in school every day. When reading, please encourage your child to select a variety of texts which could include fiction books, non-fiction books, leaflets, magazines or newspapers, all of which can be recorded in their reading record. Even though your child is in Year 6, it is important for them to still read out loud and discuss what they are reading with an adult. This should be recorded and signed in their record at least twice a week. This year, we have started our exciting 'Reading Masters' challenge. Each week, we will count the number of times your child has read and recorded in their reading record. Each reading entry will contribute to working their way up the master's tower, getting the children ever closer towards achieving the highest rank of Reading Master!

Spellings

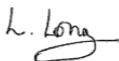
All children will be given weekly spellings on a **Tuesday** which are from the National Curriculum expectations for our year group. They will be taught the spelling rule in class so that they understand how it works and can apply it to a variety of words. On the following **Monday**, children will be tested to check understanding.

Mental Maths (Fluency)

It is also essential that the children continue to develop and strengthen their number fluency. Having instant recall of key number facts is crucial to success in being confident mathematicians. We will be continuing to progress through the Magicians' Guild as it is important for them to practise these skills regularly.

As ever, thank you for your support and we look forward to the action packed year ahead; we know that it will be necessary to adjust arrangements as required to adhere to guidance regarding Covid-19 but we would like to take this opportunity to say we are doing our absolute best to make the children's final year at Westfields Junior School a memorable and successful one!

Kind regards,



Mrs Long
Year 6 Team Leader
& Class Teacher



Miss Creelie
Class Teacher



Miss Barrard
Class Teacher