



Stone

Church of England Combined School

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Building stepping stones to success



Design adapted from the children of Stone C of E School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 6! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are ready for all the excitement that Year 6 has to offer. In this letter I hope to give you and your child an introduction to the next stage of their learning journey.

Hopefully, it will answer any questions you may have about the routines and learning activities that your child will be engaged in during the next academic year. However, please do come and ask if there is anything that I have not included that you would like to know.

The Year 6 team

Miss Anderson is the class teacher and both Mrs Locke and Mrs Dover will be supporting us in class. Mrs Hale will be teaching the children on a Monday and Tuesday morning.

Homework

Homework is very important this year. The children will be given regular home learning in preparation for secondary school. Home learning will be given out weekly, on a Friday, and is due back in on the following Wednesday morning. The children will also be given a daily 15 minute homework task that needs to be completed each night. Your child will be given a home learning book, in which all tasks will be written. Your child needs to take responsibility for his/her learning, developing a routine and making sure that home learning is not left to the last minute. Children should be able to complete their home learning independently and it should not take them more than one and a half hours.

Every week, your child will receive spelling words and multiplication tables to learn, as well as two tasks that will be related to their work in class. The children will have a multiplication test every Friday. There will be a spelling test every Wednesday. The spelling test will be done at the back of your child's home learning book, in order for you to monitor their progress and recap any words of which they are unsure. The children will record their spellings for the week in their homework diaries.

Homework diaries

Each child has been given a homework diary in which they will record their homework. They can also use it to record other events happening in school, so it is important that it is in school every day. You may use it to write any messages you have for me, and the children will then be responsible for giving it to me to read.

Please keep a check on the homework your child is being given and sign it at the end of each week. It will then be signed by me in school on a Friday.

Reading

Reading is an important part of your child's home learning and they should be reading for at least 15 minutes daily. Your child should be encouraged to read for pleasure at home and make time for reading a variety of texts: stories, information texts, magazines, newspapers, poetry, recipes, instructions, lists, cartoons, brochures, etc.

This year we will continue using the reading record booklet where you and your child will be encouraged to write comments about their reading progress. In Year 6, many children enjoy reading silently. However, it is still really important for them to read aloud regularly in order to discuss the content of what they have read. This will

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" Philippians 4:3



improve their comprehension, broaden their vocabulary and allow them to develop their skills of empathy and deduction. We would appreciate **at least** one comment by an adult weekly and for the children to record what they have read each day.

Children will be trying to complete the Reading Monopoly challenge this year, which is designed to encourage them to read a wide variety of texts. For a book to count towards the challenge the children must have their reading record signed by an adult each time they have read part of it (or the whole of it if it is a shorter book).

As a class, we will visit our fantastic brand new library every **Friday**. In this time, the teachers and teaching assistants will be supporting the children in selecting appropriate books. Each week your child will bring home a library book that they can swap in weekly library sessions. Once they have completed the grey book band books, they will be considered 'Free readers' and will be expected to read a book of their own choice at home. We hope that this will encourage the children to love reading as much as we do! The library will also be open during some lunchtimes, giving children an additional opportunity to change their books if needed.

Guided reading will take place over the course of the week and the children will take part in a range of reading activities.

Mathematics

In Year 6, the children need to develop confidence in using and applying their knowledge of multiplication and related division facts. It is important that the children gain quick mental recall of multiplication facts, so that they are free to concentrate on applying them in a range of contexts, e.g. tackling long multiplication and division related problems, working out averages, carrying out work on fractions, calculating area and volume, etc.

It is important, as they learn their tables, that they develop an understanding of the link between multiplication and division, so when learning their tables they need to know that while $7 \times 3 = 21$ it is also the case that $21 \div 3 = 7$ and $21 \div 7 = 3$ etc.

The children can learn their tables any way that suits them. This could include:

- learning by rote i.e. saying the table over and over again, as a song;
- trying to identify patterns in the answers, then working out a general rule that will apply to that times table, e.g. all answers in the 5 times table end in a 5 or a 0, and the inverse for the operation of division, any number that ends in a 5 or a 0 can be divided by 5;
- using a 100 square to plot patterns;
- spotting doubles, e.g. $3 \times 8 = 24$, 6 is double 3, so $6 \times 8 = \text{double } 24 = 48$
- using fingers to do 'tricks' (e.g. 9 x table)
- answering quick fire questions in random order;
- they could tell you different ways of saying 7×5 (e.g. 7 times 5 equals 35, 7 multiplied by 5 equals 35, the product of 7 and 5 is 35)

Once your child has become more confident about the multiplication facts, they could be asked division facts and apply relevant calculations in real life situations. To further challenge your child, you could ask him/her questions like 'What is 6×40 or 6×400 ? (once they know $6 \times 4 = 24$). You could discuss how they worked out their answer when dealing with 10's, 100's, 1000's etc.

PE

Our PE days this year will be on a **Tuesday** and a **Friday**. Please ensure that the children have their PE kit at school on these days. Please avoid wearing any jewellery on these days.

For the first half term the children will have PE on a **Thursday** instead of a Friday with the sports coach.

Creative curriculum

Our topic this half term is 'What a Wonderful World'. We will be learning about map reading, the 8 points of the compass and 6 figure grid references. Our learning for this topic will take place at Forest Schools. Please ensure your child has suitable clothing to attend each Wednesday.

Attached is our Curriculum forecast, showing what will be covered this half term. You will be able to find out further information about what we are covering in class each term on the school's website.

If you have any queries about anything mentioned in this letter or indeed anything else you would like to talk about, please feel free to see me in the playground after school.

Kind regards

Gemma Anderson