

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a very unusual end to the last academic year, I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and that the children are as excited as I am to be starting their Year Six adventure and to be returning to normality (well almost). I am also looking forward to working alongside Ms Koca as the class' teaching assistant. We are kicking the year off with our first sub-focus question 'Did Leonardo Da Vinci change the world?'

If you have any concerns about what is happening in school at any time, please let us know as the sooner we know, the sooner we can help.

Mrs Porter



### Swimming

As pools have now been able to reopen, swimming lessons will begin the week commencing Monday 7th September and will continue until half term. This will give us 7 weeks of swimming. **Our session is timetabled for a Friday afternoon.**

Classes will be split into 3 groups for this, rather than the usual 2, this will allow for social distancing in the pool and changing rooms.

Each lesson your child will need a swimming kit - trunks/costume and a towel. Goggles are also permitted. Children cannot swim if they have earrings in, and I cannot remove them for your child. If your child wears nail varnish, tattoos or hair gel on swimming days they cannot go in the pool as these products can block the filters.

### Curriculum

Our Big question for this academic year will be 'Can one person change the world?' Over the course of the year, we have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned. In order to be able to answer this question, the children will have 6 sub-questions to focus on throughout the year. Our first focus question is 'Did Leonardo Da Vinci change the world? 15 April 1452 – 2 May 1519'

As part of this, the children will locate the world's countries, using maps, with a particular focus on Europe. They will explore the human and physical characteristics of Italy. Additionally, they will study Leonardo Da Vinci's works and their locations across Europe.

In Design Technology, the children will explore Da Vinci's Designs/Inventions. The children will understand and use mechanical systems in their products [for example, gears, pulleys, cams, levers and linkages] to replicate the cam hammer.

To compliment our Connections lessons, the children will be focusing on biographies in Writing skills initially leading to them writing about Da Vinci's life. The children will also focus on non-chronological reports and will write about the Renaissance and some of Leonardo da Vinci's art pieces.

In maths, we will be focusing on place value and the four operations.

## P.E.

Due to the current circumstances, PE kits should not be sent in to school. Children are to wear PE kit for the day on PE days.

Your child's P.E. kit should consist of a blue tee-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls. Winter/outdoor PE kit should consist of tracksuit/jogging bottoms with a non-hooded sweat shirt for safety reasons. Outdoor kit is necessary for this term and our P.E. area.

This academic year the children will enjoy a P.E. session led by Elite Sports. **Our timetabled session is Thursday morning.**

## Reading

Pupils are expected to read for 20 minutes every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They are also expected to record in their reading log a summary of the content they have read during each 20 minute session. This will help the children to develop their comprehension.

Parents/Guardians should also sign their child's reading record each time they read. Year 6 staff will monitor reading on a Friday, and any child who hasn't read the expected amount, will spend some of their break times enjoying a book to meet the expected amount of time. In the current circumstances, any books returned from home will need to be quarantined in the class room for 72 hours before going back onto the shelves. We will therefore have Friday as a book changing day.

topic homework weekly. Due to the current circumstances, homework will be set online and will also be able to be completed online using class Padlets (as we did during school closure). Homework will be sent home on Fridays and should be completed by the following Wednesday. Every Wednesday, a member of Year 6 staff will check that everyone has submitted a piece. Any child not completing this homework will spend their lunch time catching up on it. Any children who are finding difficulties with their homework, should speak to a member of Year 6 staff on Monday morning, so we can assist them during Monday Lunchtime. Spellings will also be tested weekly and are also part of your child's weekly homework.

## Homework expectations

I would like to take this opportunity to outline the homework expectations now that the children are in Year 6. We are trying to prepare the children for their onward journey to secondary school and therefore it is important that we start the year as we mean to go on. Therefore, there will be a slightly firmer approach towards homework, reading and spellings/tables.

In Year 6, the children will continue to be given either maths, literacy or

## Times tables

Please remember times tables are essential knowledge and the children need to be able to rapidly recall their times table facts, both multiplication and division, to enable them to solve more complex problems. They should be regularly practiced using 'TT Rockstars' or other appropriate methods. As the children are in Year 6, it is nationally expected that they should be able to recall all of their times tables facts up to 12 x 12.

If you have any problems with accessing TT Rockstars, please let me know.

## Spellings

The children will be given spellings to learn on a Monday via the class Padlet, which follow a weekly rule and they will be tested on the following Monday. Any children obtaining low spelling results, will have to complete a retest during the next day's break time.

**Please also note children must bring in a filled water bottle every day.**

### SATS

In Year 6, we are very busy working hard preparing for our SATS tests. The key stage 2 tests will take place between Monday 10th May and Thursday 13th May 2021. It is important that no children have time off during this week. Additionally, our time in class leading up to this date will be important in preparing the children for these assessments. It is therefore important that time absent from school is minimised – any holidays will not be authorised.