



Somerford Primary School

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Friday 30th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the Autumn Term of 2022-2023. What a year it is going to be. We are very proud of the children for how well they have settled back into school and how quickly they have adapted to the new systems and structures we have in place in Year 6. They should all feel very proud of themselves too.

This term, we have started with the topic 'Mysterious Mayans' and then after half term, we have the topic 'Hola Mexico'. We will start by studying the history of the Maya people and then we will move on to exploring the human and physical geography of Mexico, in particular the Chihuahuan Desert, as well as comparing life in Mexico to life in England. We are very excited to be welcoming a Maya Archaeologist to school on Tuesday 11th October to enhance their learning in this topic. If you haven't already paid the £5 donation for this experience, please do so as soon as possible.

Our PE days this term are Monday (Indoor) and Thursday (Outdoor). Your child should come to school dressed in their PE Kit for the whole day. Please ensure that they are wearing kit in line with the school policy (plain white top, dark shorts or jogging bottoms, trainers). They should not wear hoodies as part of their PE Kit. School jumpers can be worn if they need a warmer top.

Key dates to remember are:

Friday 7th October – Staff Training Day. School closed to pupils.
Tuesday 11th October – Maya Visitor Workshop
Wednesday 12th October – School Photographer In
Tuesday 18th October – Parent Consultations
Thursday 20th October – Parent Consultations
Monday 24th October – Half Term begins.
Monday 31st October – Back to school.
Monday 5th December – School Carol Concert at 5:00pm
Friday 9th December – Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 15th December – Final day of Autumn Term.
Tuesday 3rd January – Back to school.

Reading

Please remember to continue to hear your child read at least 3 times a week and complete the online Reading Record on Marvellous Me (in line with the Home Learning Policy). In order to help prepare the children for the homework demands of Secondary School, children who haven't got 3 reading records completed by Friday will miss their playtime on a Friday. For every 10 minutes of reading the complete, they will get a Reading Token (up to 8 maximum) for a chance to win a brand new book to keep for themselves.

Spelling

Children are set a list of words to learn each week. This list is in the Home School Book and is also set as a task to practise on Spellzone. Children should access Spellzone at least 3 times per week to practise their weekly words and also to complete their Spelling Pathway. If children have not completed their weekly spelling word task on Spellzone, they will miss their playtime on a Monday to practise the words. We give the children 1 Spellzone Session in school each week and they also have the opportunity to ask to stay in to go on Spellzone at any break or lunchtime.

Enjoy Aspire Achieve

Times tables

The National Curriculum expectations for Year 6 are that the children should know all of their tables up to 12 x 12 and the related division facts. If they don't have this knowledge secured by the end of Year 6, it will put them at a disadvantage as they start Year 7. Please encourage your child to practise their times tables and go on Times Tables Rock Stars at least 3 times per week. . We give the children 1 TTRS Session in school each week and they also have the opportunity to ask to stay in to go on Spellzone at any break or lunchtime. Daily practise really does make a huge difference so the more they can access it, the better.

Topic

As part of our learning, the children will be discovering important facts and information, which you will find on the Maya Knowledge Organiser that has been sent home already. The children will become extremely familiar with the Knowledge Organisers as we will be using them regularly in class. Once a week, we will give the children a Knowledge Organiser Quiz so it would be helpful if you could also continue this learning at home by encouraging them to read the Knowledge Organiser as part of their reading homework and asking questions about the topic, based on the facts found on the Knowledge Organisers. The children love to play games with them, such as "How many facts can you recall in a minute" or "Fastest Finger – Who can find a particular fact the quickest?".

English & Maths Knowledge Organisers

Attached to this letter is a copy of the English and Maths Knowledge Organisers that we use in class on a daily basis. The National Curriculum for both of these subjects requires children to know all of the facts and techniques on these sheets so regular 'quick' reading of these sheets and 'quick quiz testing' of these will be really beneficial to the children. After half term we will be having 3 Quiz Questions a week based on both of these Knowledge Organisers.

Y6 SATs

We will be sending more detailed information out in the Spring Term but for now, we just need to let you know that SATs week will be 8th – 11th May 2023. Please make sure that you have not booked any holidays or appointments for these dates. Thank you.

We have so much to look forward to over the course of the year including our Topics based on the books Holes, Pig Heart Boy, War Horse, The Titanic Detective Agency, and Floodland and a trip to The Tank Museum in the Spring Term.

As we said at the start of this letter, we are so incredibly proud of the children so far and we know that it is going to be a very successful year.

Thank you all so much for your continued support.

As ever, should you have any concerns or questions please speak to your child's class teacher directly or email the class emails (6JH@somerford.dorset.sch.uk) (6RM@somerford.dorset.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hudson, Mrs Maddison, Mrs Hamlett, Mrs Gray & Mrs Cole
Y6 Teaching Team