Year 6 Cedar
Class teacher: Mr Flynn
Teaching Assistant: Miss Szczepaniak

Dear Parents /Carers,

I am looking forward to teaching your child in this exciting and final year at West Twyford, particularly as we had such a successful year together in Year 5. I am pleased to say, the children seem as happy as I am to be working together again. This year should be a successful year which builds on all the previous learning at primary school, and although there is clearly hard work ahead of us, there are also a lot of exciting and fun things to look forward to.

This termly letter is to inform you of the topics that will be taught throughout the term. It provides information about what this term holds in store for your child. It breaks down which skills, knowledge and concepts are being developed and what learning objectives are being taught.

Mathematics

As you know, your child has already been learning using the Singapore Maths approach which allows children to develop number sense and reasoning skills. The Singapore method of teaching mathematics develops pupils' mathematical skills and confidence without having to resort to memorising procedures to pass tests - making mathematics more engaging and interesting.

This term your child will be exploring the following topics:
- Place value
- Four operations
- Fractions
- Decimals
- Measurement
In addition to this, there will be weekly arithmetic lessons in order to prepare for the end of KS2 test. Please ensure that your child knows all the multiplication tables up to 12 and can make division facts from them. The children will be taking home, any arithmetic tests that they done in class. Please help them with anything they are struggling with.

**English**

The English lessons include Big Reading, comprehension, spelling, grammar, handwriting and Big Writing.

**Writing**

The strategy used to teach English in the Juniors is 'Big Writing' which enables us to teach the children to produce written work that is interesting, grammatically accurate and correctly spelt. The children write at length, once a week, in different text types. Their writing is inspired by texts of different genres which are, wherever possible, linked to their project.

An important part of their writing is the speaking and listening activities linked to the text both in the classroom and at home. As part of their weekly preparation for 'Big Writing' I will be sending home weekly 'Big Talk' homework. This is designed to give parents an opportunity to discuss their child’s writing with them and to participate in the imaginative process, of which talking is a key part.

The National Curriculum has a strong emphasis on spelling and grammar, and the children will be encouraged to focus on these elements of their writing, across all curriculum areas.

**Reading**

In Big Reading lessons, the children are taught strategies to use in written comprehension. Children will be taught to refer to the text to support their opinions and use action, dialogue and description to read between the lines, and to understand characters’ points of view. It is a requirement of the National Curriculum that children in Year 6 are able to read fluently and with accuracy; this is something that we would encourage parents to support at home. This term the children will be reading 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' by Brain Selznick.

In all classes, we endeavour to encourage children to develop a love of reading. It is essential, if your child is to achieve the expected standard for Year 6, that children read on a regular basis at home, both to an adult and independently. To support your child, I will be checking their reading records regularly.

**Spelling**

In spelling, the children will continue to be taught to understand and apply the concepts of word structure so that they can draw on their knowledge of morphology and etymology to spell correctly. The children will continue with the Read Write Inc Spelling Scheme and the 'Spelling Bee' competition. They will bring home lists of spellings to learn and will have weekly tests.

**Reading Books**
Reading books are changed regularly at school and children have the opportunity to change one book for another, as soon as they have finished. The class library book should go back and forth between school and home, on a daily basis. It is also important to remember that silent reading, and reading aloud, are separate skills, and it is important that children continue to practise both these skills. Any lost books must be paid for.

**Science:** This term we will be studying Evolution and Inheritance; including Living Things and their Habitats.

**Project:** This term the children will be studying the changes in Britain since 1948. This includes producing a time line of the decades and researching major changes in each decade. Children will explore music, fashion, dance, politics, technology, immigration and changing geography through the decades. Children should be encouraged to collect information and do their own research at home. For this topic, children will be completing an independent project task each week.

**Religious Education:** During the first term the children will be finding out about the key features of worship and the community, founders of faiths and their importance for people today.

**French:** We teach French to all the junior classes, in Year 6 French will be taught by Miss Muir.

**Art:** The children will explore different painting media such as water colours and acrylics. They will work on their own 'pop art' compositions, related to their project, and evaluate their paintings.

**Music:** Children will explore call and response, vocal improvising and music from symbols. They will also be preparing for the Christmas Concert. This year they will be working on developing keyboard skills.

**Information and Communications Technology:** Throughout this term children will explore a variety of topics including e-safety. We will be learning basic coding skills to create our own 1980's style computer games, as well as continuing to develop skills in word processing, multimedia presentations and the use of safe search engines to research on the internet.

**Physical Education:** The themes for PE will include gymnastics and dance. During your child’s games lessons we will focus on small & large ball skills and learn the principles of games. We will be looking at floor work and play seated Volleyball and Handball.

PE kits should be in school every day i.e. brought in to school on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. Your child will need white or navy sports shorts, T-shirt, jogging bottoms and sweatshirt and trainers all labelled with their name in a named PE bag.

**Homework:** The school’s homework policy states that your child should be receiving a regular amount of homework not exceeding three hours per week.

Regular homework is as follows:

**Monday** – Children will bring home lists of spellings which will be tested on a weekly basis.

**Thursday** - Children will bring home Big Talk homework. This should be shared with an adult and is an important element of their Big Writing preparation which takes place on a Friday.
Friday – Grammar and Maths homework to be returned by the following Tuesday. Arithmetic tests will be brought home fortnightly for children to review any mistakes.

Class Trips: This term we will be going to the Natural History Museum to learn more about Inheritance and Evolution. Parent helpers are welcome.

Conclusion
Please feel free to attend our sharing assemblies which take place every Friday afternoon at 2.45 p.m. – you are most welcome.

You will find up-to-date information in the school office, as well as the school website. We recommend that you download and register our school app, if you haven't already done so, as all the information you will need will be on there.

Please feel free to come to school to discuss any issues or concerns you may have; either make an appointment with myself, Ms Collum or Miss Martin.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and challenging year ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Flynn
Class teacher

Miss Martin
Head Teacher