

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to introduce ourselves and outline the main information you need to know, in order to support your child during their last year at Lipson Vale Primary. We are the Year Six teachers – Miss Welsh, Miss Kelly and Mrs Stephens. With the help of our teaching assistants, Miss Renouf and Ms Cook, we intend to give the children a final year to remember.

The first thing that we wish to reinforce is the importance of having a good working partnership between us. With your active support, we can help your child see that the relationship between school and their family is positive, supportive and proactive. We will provide you with information and advice and we ask that you get in touch if you have concerns or changes at home at any time so that they can be dealt with quickly.

As ever, high expectations are set for the children in their work, behaviour and appearance. Pupils in Year Six may find the workload a little overwhelming at first, but we support them in taking greater responsibility for their learning and encourage them to work more independently.

## Topics covered this year

Curriculum topics for the year:

Autumn: Coasts, The Mayans, Light and Electricity.

Spring: WWII project; Living Things and their Habitats & SATs preparation.

Summer: SATS Preparation; Evolution including Growing Up project; Fairtrade; Transition Work; Activities Week; Leavers' Production.

## PE days

The Y6 indoor PE session is on a Tuesday afternoon and the weekly outdoor games lesson is on a Thursday afternoon (with our Sports Partnership Coach). Please ensure that they come to school wearing the correct PE kit on these days. The kit list can be found on the school website.

## Homework and diary

All children have been provided with a homework diary to help with general organisation and also inform you about forthcoming events, homework tasks, spelling lists, etc. It can also be used as a form of communication between school and home. We suggest the children keep it in their bag so it is easily accessible both at home and school.

Homework is organised in a different way in Y6 to the rest of the school (who use termly learning grids), in order to get the children ready for secondary school expectations. Homework is set every Friday and handed in the following Friday

(unless otherwise specified). The children are given a slip of paper each week, which they stick in their homework diary, detailing tasks for the week.

In addition, they will receive a weekly list of spellings which will be put into the homework diary and they will be expected to learn. Sometimes, these will be from the government provided Year 5/6 list, which the children need to know by the end of the year in order to reach the expected standard in writing. (A copy of this list is also on Google Classroom and the school's website, so regular practice can be undertaken at home.)

Reading is ongoing – ideally daily. Practice needs to be recorded in the children's reading diary, as well as an indication of whether it was with an adult or independent reading. The minimum expectation for reading with an adult is three times a week. We suggest that it is more beneficial to attempt small chunks of homework each night rather than to leave it all until Thursday evening!

## SATs

All Year Six children across the country will undertake national testing during the course of the year, which are called SATs. For your information, the key objectives for each area, which the children are tested on, can be found on the school website. Grading of the SATs is about whether children have reached the 'expected standard' (EXS), which is the average achievement for children of their age. Children are either working towards the standard (WTS), have met the standard (EXS) or are exceeding the standard (GDS - Greater Depth in the expected standard). The end of Key stage SATS exams this year will be from **13th – 16th May 2024**. Please avoid any holidays during this week.

## How to help your child at home

We will work hard to accelerate the progress of the children, providing high quality lessons and, when appropriate, maths targeted groups and individual support, targeted handwriting and spelling intervention, additional reading time, etc. However, we need all pupils and parents/carers to work hard, acknowledging that in order to make progress it will require commitment, resilience and determination from everyone. Please ensure that you support your child/ren with their home learning, attendance, punctuality, organisation and readiness to learn.

## Other things you need to know

Our Healthy Eating policy continues, as does the sipping policy – water bottles in class. Children may refill their bottles in class at morning and lunchtime breaks. They must be taken home every night and washed.

As part of our Relationships policy, we have created a Class Charter based on our 'Window of Tolerance' - the behaviours we expect from our classmates and



## Welcome to Year Six

Miss Welsh, Miss Kelly and Mrs Stephens

ourselves. If the behaviour of your child causes us concern, we will inform you and we will also be in touch to celebrate successes too!

If there are matters that you would like to discuss with us, please get in touch either by letter, a note in your child's planner or by telephoning the office. Minor misunderstandings and problems are bound to occur and are best addressed as quickly as possible. Otherwise, you may prefer to make a telephone appointment or speak to one of us after school.

We are not allowed to administer any medicines at all without an appropriate permission form. Children who use asthma pumps should either carry them or know where they are kept in the classroom.

Residential trip - We hope to run a residential trip to the Isle of Wight. Children who stay in school will be involved in a range of school-based activities for this particular week (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024). Letters will be sent home shortly.

We will have Parents' Evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms when your child's progress will be discussed and targets set. Written reports will go out in the Summer Term before your child moves on in the following September.

At the moment, you are busy deciding, with your child, about secondary school places for next September. Please remember that the deadline for this decision is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**. If you would like any support with filling out the on-line form, please contact the office or Liz Farmer (our PSA) who are happy to help.

There will also be plenty of opportunities for extra-curricular activities (including sport) throughout the year and hopefully the curriculum will be broad, balanced and most importantly enjoyable!

Hopefully, you have found this letter helpful, however if you would like to meet us to discuss any particular issues, or even just to put a face to a name of your child's class teachers, we will be available for a drop-in session next **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, between 3:30 – 4:30pm**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Welsh, Miss Kelly and Mrs Stephens

