BISHOP CORNISH CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Dear Parents and Children

Welcome to Year 6!

They've made it! Their journey through primary school has finally reached the top! Hasn't it flown by?!

It's lovely to welcome our new Year 6 children and hope they're all returning refreshed and full of exciting stories and adventures to tell!

This year we will be learning about lots of new and exciting topics, including two new history areas: the Vikings and Tudors! We will be starting with WWII, with an evacuation planned for 27th September!… *letter to follow*. We will also be taking our learning outdoors regularly so children will need to have a change of clothes in school (with their wellies) for impromptu visits to the woods!

The children continue learning Spanish with Mrs Garner, and will be welcoming Mr Brown who will be teaching P.E. Both are specialists in their field! Mrs Green will be teaching some reading skills on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00-1:30pm, getting a chance to look at some fantastic new literature!

SATs
Children will be taking the National Curriculum tests in English Reading; Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (often referred to as SPAG); Arithmetic and Maths Reasoning next May. This is nothing to be worried about. Please do not feel the need to pressure your child, which can cause unnecessary stress and anxiety. This will only make learning and retaining their learning more difficult. Being super positive and encouraging is the way forward! ☺ If you would like to know more about SATs you can find it on:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-and-2-national-curriculum-tests-information-for-parents

Homework:
For this term, homework will be project based, focusing on two areas: WWII and Tudor England. *More to follow!* The children will then have the opportunity to present their project to their classmates. It's always lots of fun and very interesting! They will also have some maths homework, which will link to, or revisit, areas we have been learning about. This may be in the form of a worksheet, a game or an activity using the online programme: IXL Maths, which is excellent for practising key skills. The children will have a password and username to be able to access this from home. Some children will have spelling homework, but generally, these are learned and practised during lessons.

Homework will not always be written down! It may be in the form of a game; a question to think or talk about; something to find, collect or make!

Homework is set on a Friday and is due in the following Friday. Other homework may include research-based work, which could be due in the next day or after the weekend. We want to get the children ready for secondary school by making it their responsibility to record what they're expected to do and when it is due in. We will spend some time on a Friday looking through homework together and/or the children will have an opportunity to share what they have done.

Reading is incredibly important and should be done daily using a variety of books from school and home. We have books for the appropriate level for your child, which they can choose from the classroom. Please make sure reading books are in school each day, as we will also have time during the day when children can read. We ask that you aim for at least 20 minutes reading at home per day… *I know many of the children do more than this, which is great!* PLEASE READ TO your child. The benefits of this are enormous! See below. ☺

Other things to know:
Children should have their P.E. kits in every day (in case plans are changed due to weather), along with outdoor clothes and wellies. Wellies are to be named and kept on the rack outside.
Swimming will take place this term for Year 6 on a Friday morning – please ensure your child comes to school with their swimming kit and a coat.
If children need to bring a mobile phone, please make sure they are labelled and handed in at the beginning of the day – these are kept securely in the office until the children need them after school.

Ways you can help your child:
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Reading

Children will continue to read as part of the Accelerated Reader scheme in Year 6, where they will be able to quiz and see their progress.

As I mentioned above, reading is hugely important, not only to develop fluent reading skills, but to develop vocabulary, spelling and writing skills!... as well as developing a love of reading! Another thing, which I cannot stress highly enough, is reading to your child. Not only is this a lovely way to spend time with your child, disappearing into another world, but when you read to them, they hear how *you* emphasise words; pronounce words; hear *your* intonation when reading sentences and hear how *you* pause at punctuation, which embeds a clearer, subconscious understanding of how certain punctuation is used. It's also a brilliant opportunity to explain or define certain words and talk about their meaning. Also ask open questions about characters or settings, where the answers are not just 'yes' or 'no.' Ask them to explain and give reasons for their answer. One thing the children will be learning to do a lot this year is to infer meaning from text. So answers could include something like: "I think……. because it says…….. which suggests that……." This is so useful to get them thinking

about and getting deeper into a text! Encourage your child to practise answering questions like this – *it will help no end!*

Writing

Good writers are often good readers – see above! Encourage to 'write' in many different ways:

- Keep a family diary where everyone contributes;
- Get them to write shopping lists for you as you read out what you need. Encourage organising it for easy reading i.e. using bullet points etc.
- Write silly stories by folding paper and the next person carrying it on… great fun!
- Practise handwriting joined up neatly – this is a requirement of the Year 6 English writing standard. This can be done on the sand at the beach with a stick; on a steamed up mirror; paint on paper… *it doesn't have to boring!*
- Look at the Year 5/6 spellings https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239784/English_Appendix_1_-_Spelling.pdf and choose the ones they find tricky and have competitions to learn them at home! Have reward charts etc. to encourage good spelling.
- Praise rather than pick faults. Children will switch off and will not respond to 'over' criticism. Praise any part of what they write/read/calculate etc. Building self-esteem and confidence will see them fly!
  Happy Children = Children That Learn!
- Write a story together.
- Write about how they think a story will end.
- Write a book review for places like Waterstones, or for competitions such as the BBC2 500 words: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1

There are endless ways to be creative and make writing at home fun – these are just a few. If you think of others, do share them!!

Maths

Maths this year will include quite a few new areas. The best way to help your child is to help improve times tables and arithmetic skills.

The children will need to be able to add, multiply, divide and subtract in a formal, vertical written method, including long division and multiplication. Let your child explain how they do it at school, but if you are unsure, please do come in and I will explain how we do it! This website will show you an example SATs test and the answers and how children could answer them. You may find this helpful, but if not do come and see me.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-2018-mathematics-test-materials

- Play maths games which involve adding or subtracting, e.g. card games.
- Give children a budget and get them to plan a meal to buy and make or budget for a holiday etc.
- Read bus or train timetables and work out the next bus, or what time the trains arrive in London, for example.
- Do some cooking – get the children to weigh and measure the ingredients!
- Go to the beach and get them to do giant sums in the sand!
- Look at the sales after Christmas and work out how much money they would save if the shop reduces the price by 30% or 25% etc.
- Children need to know percentage, decimal and fraction equivalents: 25% = ¼ = 0.25; 20% = 1/5 = 0.2. etc. Proportion families to learn are: the quarters, fifths, tenths, eighths and thirds. Link this to pizza cutting or price reductions etc.
- Work through IXL maths activities together or revisit the same or similar areas of maths a year below to refresh and practise.
- Impress someone by Speaking 'ancient Greek or Latin' when referring to numbers e.g. Hexa = 6!

There are many, many ways to bring maths into everyday life. I'm sure you could think of many more!

Please feel free to come and see me if you have any questions or concerns; I'd rather you pop your head in round the door in the morning, than worry about something! Or if you need to speak to me after school, send in a note or speak to Mrs Dunbar or Mrs Hale at reception and we can arrange something.

We're looking forward to a super term with lots of memories to make and experiences to be had!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Hill
Year 6 Teacher