

Dear Parents and Children of Year 6,

I know it's only the beginning of the third week back, but it has felt like we've been back for months!

We have a fun-filled, learning-rich, bustling busy year ahead! Please find below some useful information, which may be helpful when helping your child with their learning and organisation!

**Our topic this term** will be The Tudors! We have already begun our learning with a re-enactment of the Battle of Bosworth, and we're even producing and directing a Blockbuster film of it... *coming soon!!* We shall also be exploring World War II in the spring term, starting with an evacuation! We shall turn back time and discover a world of beheadings, corruption, and strange ways of life, as well as rationing, 'making do and mending,' a switch in roles and learning about the lengths people went to, to help and support each other in such a difficult period of history. Our summer project takes us to Peru, South America and the Galapagos Islands, linking to our science topic on evolution and inheritance!

We will be exploring, experiencing and investigating these themes through many different subjects including: English, History, Geography, P.E., Art, Music, ICT, Design and Technology amongst others.

We will be planning a Tudor banquet and an evacuation to the countryside as well as a socially distanced VE party! Homework will be in the form of a project or two – *information to come!*

### **Homework:**

Homework is set on a Friday and due in the following Friday starting this week. On some occasions, homework will be due in on Monday e.g. research or learning words for a play or poem/song etc.

Weekly homework will consist of:

#### **Maths:**

- either a worksheet or internet-based activity/ies related to topics we have covered/ revised, or a game/ investigation.

#### **English:**

- reading 20 minutes minimum per day (alternate between reading independently and reading aloud);

- spellings;

- something relating to written English, e.g. a writing task or SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar!

- Project based work – this term on the Tudors.

Homework set *should* take no longer than an hour or so per week (this does not include reading, spellings or times table practice). Homework is usually marked in class (if recorded) or children have the opportunity to talk about or present their work, where positive feedback or reinforcement will be given.

**P.E.** is timetabled for Fridays, so please ensure your child has the correct kit. P.E. times can change at the last minute (due to weather for example), so kit needs to be in the whole week.

**On Thursdays afternoons**, Year 6 will be taught Spanish by Mrs Garner.

Please can your child have some old clothes they can wear for going outside – we often go to the woods or learn outside!

**Mobile phones** - If your child needs to bring a mobile phone, please ensure it is labelled on the back and handed in to me in the morning. They are kept securely until the end of the day.

## Some useful ideas to help your child:

### Reading

- When your child reads, allow them to read independently to themselves (in their heads and/or aloud) as well as sitting with your child, listening to them read aloud to you. Ask questions which make them think about the plot, or intention of characters, author intent, predicting how events will end, or to show how they know something by asking them to 'prove it;' finding and showing you where in the book their idea comes from. Talk about difficult or new vocabulary, finding out the meaning together or find similar words (synonyms) which could replace the word.
- It is also **really important** to read to your child. Not only will your child enjoy listening to you, but they will subconsciously learn how to use intonation to colour the text, and how to 'read' punctuation; putting in the correct pauses and raising or dropping the voice at the right time etc. You're never too old to listen to a story!
- Listen to story CDs in the car; ones the whole family can enjoy! This subconsciously 'feeds the brain' with story structures, sentence construction ideas, new and interesting vocabulary, speech ideas, character descriptions... the list is endless!
- Read a variety of texts - not just stories! E.g. magazines, newspapers (a great child's newspaper is 'First News'), information books, shopping lists, instructions to games etc.

### Writing

- Keep a family diary where everyone inputs something for the day/week. Encourage your child to write in full sentences and use interesting vocabulary. Reading yours first may give them ideas of sentence structure, word choice, handwriting styles (neatly please! :-)) or punctuation etc.
- Write a story together - take turns to write the next part! Perhaps start the next paragraph, letting your child write the rest, e.g. Suddenly, without warning a dark and mysterious...
- Encourage your child to take part in a writing competition, e.g. the BBC2 Short Story competition, or write to Blue Peter etc.
- Write a book review for Waterstones - they often put them up on display for the public to read!

### Maths

- Play games, which help children, keep score or use arithmetic or mental maths in some way, e.g. Velcro darts, or card games... or make them up! There are conkers around at the moment; can you make up a game using conkers that encourages mental calculation?

- Get your child involved in the shopping list or an order online - give them a budget and ask them to work out how much a meal (or a week's menu) would cost or work out the change from £20, £100 depending on ability etc.
- Make up silly songs to remember mathematical facts, times-tables, rules etc. This can also be very useful for SPAG!
- Earn pocket money in small amounts and get them to keep a log, adding up as they go, deducting anything they spend! Lots of decimals in this as well as written methods for addition and subtraction!
- Get them to be the teacher and teach you something!... (even if it's not 100% correct! Giving them the opportunity to share their learning boosts esteem, and develops courage and a willingness to learn. This can really help them along on their learning journey!)

## Projects

- Help them organise and plan what it is they want to find out and guide them in the right direction. *Please don't write it for them!*
- Make it fun: go to a museum, cook an authentic recipe, visit a relative with a questionnaire, make a model... etc.

## General

- Be really positive and celebrate any and everything your child gets right - don't just focus on the negative things! If they are sharing some work that they are doing e.g. long multiplication questions for homework, congratulate every little detail they have got right, then look at the things that may need attention... getting a wrong answer is not a failure; they may have learned or improved on many little steps in the working-out process! ☺
- If you, yourself, are unsure of something, give me a ring at school, and I'll tell you or show you (via Zoom!) what I taught the children... *please don't be embarrassed! Most adults haven't needed to do long division for a very long time!!* ☺

Hope this is helpful! Any questions, please send Mrs Dunbar an email to pass onto me ([secretary@bishop-cornish.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@bishop-cornish.cornwall.sch.uk)).

Thank you for your support in these strange and difficult times! ☺

Mr Hill