

Friday 11th September
2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year. We hope you have had a lovely time over the Summer. It was wonderful to meet so many of you in person at our 'Meet the Teacher' evening last week. There will be more parent information evening throughout the year and we hope to see you again then. Thank you to Claire Mundell for volunteering to be our Whats App administrator for Year 6 parents.

Firstly, we'd like to express our excitement about teaching your children this year; we feel very honoured to be working with them at such an important stage in their school career. We hope to prepare them fully for their end of key stage assessments and their transition to secondary school. We appreciate that both parents and children may worry that there is pressure surrounding performance in these assessments but would like to reassure that the only expectation is that children achieve their potential: their best is good enough and they are wonderful children and are talented in many ways beyond maths, reading, spelling and grammar. We are looking forward to working alongside you all as your child approaches the new challenges, responsibilities and exciting experiences that Year 6 has to offer.

Topic

Our first topic this year is World War Two, a topic I know your children will approach with curiosity and sensitivity. The proposed content of the lessons this half term can be found on the Autumn 1 topic web. If anyone has any knowledge or expertise in this area, then do get in touch if you would like to share! We will be visiting Bletchley Park as part of our learning.

Reading in Year 6

Reading is an important part of the school curriculum and at Stapleford we encourage as many opportunities to read and celebrate books, both at school and at home, as possible. Your child will be given the opportunity to take books home from the library or classroom and they may sometimes be given books or texts to take home and read. Every child will be given a reading record which provides an opportunity for yourselves or your child to record any books read at home. If these can be kept in children's bags we will check these reading records weekly. They may also be asked to write or present a short review of a book they have read each half term.

Homework

Children will continue to be given a 'Menu' of homework activities at the beginning of the half term. These activities cover a wide range of curriculum areas and the children are expected to complete an activity from each column to be handed in on a Friday. Homework books will be marked and returned the following day. This homework is to be completed alongside weekly spelling practice and Times Table Rock Stars. Homework will increase throughout the year which will include additional Maths, SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar) and Reading tasks in preparation for SATs and in readiness for homework expectations at Secondary School.

PE

We have PE on a **Wednesday** and **Friday** this half-term so please ensure your child comes to school in an appropriate P.E. kit on those days.

Adult support

This year we are lucky to have **Mrs Smithies** and **Ms Skinnings** working with our class at various points during the week (mornings). **Mrs Pugh** will be taking the class on a Wednesday afternoon during my release time.

Please don't hesitate to come and see us if you have any questions or concerns. If you would like to make an appointment to see us after school, please contact the school office or drop a note in at the door in the morning so we can arrange a mutually convenient time.

Best wishes,

Emma Fewster and Katie Street