Parents of children in Classes 6EM & 6PA Wednesday 4th September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the final year of Primary Education. Many children really look forward to being the oldest in the school and taking on the responsibilities which will include supporting the Foundation children through their first term at school. They will face much greater pressure from pace of work building up to the SATs. Your support in helping them meet the challenges and getting themselves organised is invaluable.

**Secondary Transition**

This is the year in which you and your child will need to make important decisions about their secondary education. We are aware that many of you already have a clear idea of your preferences, but if you would like to talk to us about it please feel free to do so. You should have received information from the local authority, with details of open evenings at the secondary schools and how to express your preference last term. Information can be found at

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/schoolseducationskillsandemployability/schooladmissions>.

A note for your diaries: Preferences have to be made by 31st October 2019.

**SATS**

Children will also sit the End of Key Stage 2 SATs during the week 11th – 15th May and much of the work this year will build up to these tests. Please avoid absences during this week. This will mean that your child will be revising work covered in previous years as well as covering new ground. This year the SATs test will be the same as last year. They will generate a scaled score where 100 represents the Age Related Expectation. We will offer the children familiarisation with the tests and will also have set mock SATs weeks in both the Autumn and Spring term.

**Curriculum**

English – Argument, historical fiction ‘The Street Child’

Maths – Place value, formal calculation and fractions

Science – Animals including humans and Electricity.

History – Victorians

Music – Recorders and singing

Games – Invasion games

PE – Gymnastics / Yoga

RE – Beliefs and questions

Outdoor Education – Bikeability – see school website for dates

**Homework**

Homework will be given on a regular basis each week. To start with, **Maths** will go out on **Mondays to be in on Thursdays**, and **English will go out on Thursdays to be in on Mondays**. It is expected that ¾ - 1 hour will be spent on each. Children may stop after this time even if they have not completed all the tasks. This allows us to differentiate the work within one activity and allows you to plan that time into your week.

**Spellings will be given out on a Thursday and tested the following Monday**. It is also expected that children should read for up to 45 minutes on the evenings they do not have other homework**.** Our aim is for the children to have a fluency and speed rate of 150-170 words per minute which has been assessed and recorded in school – the children will be aware of their fluency rate. Please help them to increase their fluency by reading aloud to you as much as possible.

The children will be given a new reading record this year. Please keep it up to date and the children will be shown how to use it. If your child loses their book, unfortunately, there will be a charge for a replacement as we do not have enough to replace lost books.

It is important that the children establish a routine in preparation for next year. Homework will not be ‘new’ work – but will consolidate learning from the week. Children need support and encouragement with homework but try to avoid doing it for them or pushing them beyond their level of understanding. They must be responsible for completing this themselves. If they do not understand what to do, they should ask staff at school for help.

**Organisation**

In terms of weekly ‘remembering things’, apart from homework, PE kit is needed on a Tuesday and games kit every Thursday. Children should get into the habit of bringing their own homework folder and pencil case to school which may include an ink or rollerball pen for neat writing (no Biros please). Reading books and reading recordss need to be brought in everyday – we will also record their reading progress within school this year.

**Staffing**

Apart from Miss Marriott and Mr Agnew, the children will be supported in their work by Mrs Rhodes, Mrs Woodhams, Mrs Ferme and Mrs Freeman as well as Mrs Booth who will teach 6PA on a Thursday mornings. During our planning, preparation and assessment time every other Wednesday, Mrs Hogg and Mrs Woodhams will take the Year 6’s during the mornings and an MFL specialist will teach French and Mrs Sumner will teach RE to both classes during the afternoons.

**Bikeability**

The children who wish to will have a chance to do Bikeability (riding a bike safely on the road) - you will receive initial information shortly and dates are on the school website.

**Trips**

In the Autumn Term we shall aim to visit Morwellham Quay in relation to our Victorian topic as well as English ‘Street Child’ unit. In the summer term there will be a chance to enjoy Outdoor Education Activities at the Mountbatten Centre as well as a day trip to Dartmoor, these will cost around £90 in total so you may wish to consider saving for those. We will also, hopefully, carry out trips during the summer Term with money raised from a ‘Spellathon’

Please make an appointment to see us if you are concerned over any aspect of your child’s school life. For our part we will contact you if we have any concerns. There will be a getting to know Year 6 meeting on Thursday 26th September. We look forward to a productive year. Please check our year group page for updates.

Yours sincerely

Miss Marriott (6EM) Mr P Agnew (6PA)