

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and a new year. We are very excited to return and look forward to another term of learning with your children. As Year 6 builds towards SATs, I do want to stress that the exams will not be the sole focus for the term and we have many exciting learning activities for the term ahead. We are very fortunate that we have Ms Malein joining our team, working Monday and Friday mornings and all day Thursday. Ms Malein will work in and out of class, working with groups to help provide Year 6 with small focused working groups. In addition, Mrs Turner and Mrs DuBoisson will work one afternoon each, primarily to carry out short interventions to help close any gaps in learning.

Our theme this term is 'Down in the Jungle.' We will be embracing a host of topics within literature, geography, art, science, music and dance, associated with rainforest culture, land use, climate and habitats which are predominantly linked to the diverse landscape of South America. Our class will be forming balanced arguments, to express justified opinions centred around deforestation and its consequences for habitats and the environment, whilst considering the global demand for farming, jobs and food supplies for an ever growing population. We plan to sow and grow broad beans, build bug hotels and compose traditional Samba music! This will feed into the big question that underpins our theme: What is the environmental impact of mankind?

Key Dates:

Year 6 Class Assembly – Wednesday 21st February at 9.10am

Half Term: 12th February – 16th February

Non-Pupil day on the 19th February. Children return on Tuesday 20th

Last day of Term: Thursday 28th March

Children should come to school in full uniform (including black leather/leather effect shoes) every day and bring their PE kit to be left at school each week where they can get changed when they have a PE lesson/sporting club. PE Kit consists of navy blue shorts, white t-shirt & black plimsoles or trainers. Tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirts may be worn outside when the weather is cold but must be in St Andrew's colours. Please ensure that all of your child's belongings (PE kit, coat, uniform, bookbag, water bottle etc) have clear name labels – this makes it much easier to get them back to you if they are misplaced.

### **Routines:**

Homework will be given on a Friday with the expectation that it is completed by the following Wednesday. Should your child need help, I will run a homework club every Monday lunchtime 12-12.30. There will not be the time to complete all the homework in this session; it is an opportunity to ask questions and seek further guidance. Please do assist your children where possible but I do not want you to battle with them over it. My expectation is that they take responsibility for organising themselves and attempt the work to the best of their abilities. We expect at least 30 minutes to be dedicated to each task alongside 20 minutes reading per day which I believe is achievable. If homework is not completed or there is not sufficient evidence of an attempt, I will be asking the children to stay in for one lunch break to work on it.

PE will take place every Monday afternoon and Friday morning (children are still expected to come in in full school uniform).

Please make sure that your child has a water bottle in school – the classrooms get very warm both in the summer and winter and active brains need plenty of hydration!

Spelling and arithmetic tests will take place every Wednesday in their homework books so you can see how well your child is doing.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress or well-being, then please don't hesitate to contact myself or the office

Best Wishes,  
Mr Line, Mrs Cook & Ms Malein  
The Y6 Team