

Dear children of Year 5 (soon to be Year 6!),

Hello! Mrs Naylor here. I am just writing a little letter to say 'hello' and to let you know a little about what to expect in Year 6. I hope you're looking forward to it as much as I am- it's going to be a great year!

As you know by now, I am going to be your class teacher in September when you come back to school. I am really looking forward to teaching you and getting to know you all more. Year 6 is such a special and memorable year (and trust me when I say it will fly by!). There are lots of things to look forward to: PGL and SAT parties are particular highlights of the year. There are lots of reasons to celebrate in Year 6 and I know you are all going to love it upstairs.

If you are worried about the work in Year 6, please don't! You are more than ready to make the move upstairs and we will work at a pace that suits you. The adults in Year 6 are always there to go over things you might find difficult and to give you little tips and tricks to help you remember things you might sometimes forget. You won't ever be shouted at for not knowing something; as long as you try your best, we will be thrilled. If you don't know something, ask! I can't emphasise this enough: it is really important that you let an adult know if you don't understand something completely. I promise, none of us bite! 😊

Things are going to be slightly different than you're used to in September, but there is absolutely nothing to worry about. I promise you that we will have lots of laughs, but we will also work really hard, so make sure you come back in September with a positive, 'can-do' attitude. If you do this, there will be no stopping you! Having a positive mindset is vital in Year 6. We need to become resilient learners, who are okay with making a mistake and learning from it. Nobody has ever gone through life without making a mistake

(not even me!) and so it is important that we don't dwell on our mistakes- we need to get back up and try again.

Just before I sign off, I'd like to wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday and leave you some top tips to help you get a head start in Year 6. If you work on these over the summer break, you will give yourself the best chance possible to hit the ground running in September.

- Learn your times tables off by heart (all the way up to 12x12- I honestly can't stress this enough. It is SO important to know these and recall them quickly when necessary).
- Read EVERY day. Whether it's half an hour or half a day, it will help. Reading something you enjoy is important, so try to find something that captures your interest. When reading, get an adult to ask you some questions about the text to check your understanding of it, paying particular attention to inferential questions (questions where the answer is not obvious and requires you to 'read between the lines'), e.g.
Simon slammed the door, stomped upstairs and threw himself on his bed. = How is Simon feeling? Why did he move upstairs? Which words give away his mood? How are the other people in Simon's house feeling at the moment? Why do you think this?
- Try to do some revision over the holidays if you can in relation to writing (I have attached a copy of the SPaG glossary I made to this post, so you can look up what the terms mean and see some examples). Practise writing sentences using subordinate, relative and embedded clauses. Try to use a colon to separate two main clauses.
- Learn to (quickly) use a dictionary and thesaurus. These skills will help you enormously in Year 6 with your spelling and use of ambitious vocabulary.

- A big part of writing in Year 6 is being able to emulate (copy) the style of the author. If you can, read a chapter of a book and see if you can imitate the writer's style. Think about your word choice (use similar adjectives and language to the author), think about the level of formality used and keep it the same (is there any slang or is it more formal?) and try to use similar sentence structures as the author (if the author uses lots of short sentences for effect, use these in your writing). The biggest difficulty with this is characterisation. For example, if you have a grumpy character, when you continue to write, the character should remain grumpy and do things that the author would probably suggest (he would not suddenly become a happy character). This is more difficult than it sounds!

I hope these tips help you out and make you feel a little more prepared for September. Remember, we've all been out of school for quite a while now, so we are all going to be rusty (even me!)

Have a safe and happy holiday and I will see you bright and breezy in September.

See you soon, Year 6!

Mrs Naylor 😊