

## Welcome to Year 6

**Class teacher:** Mrs Graham, TA Mrs Topley

Dear Parents,

I hope you find the following information helps you to understand and support your child with their learning this year. All staff involved in teaching your child at Shirenewton School will continue to see that your child develops as a happy, effective and independent learner.

### **Home Learning**

As in previous years, children will have a list of home learning activities which they can choose to complete. Most of the home learning options come straight from the class; they are ideas generated by the children that can't be covered within school time so are included in the home learning options. The children can do as many activities in a half term as they'd like, however **they must complete at least one**. All home learning will be shared and displayed in class to enrich the children's topic learning. To help prepare children for secondary school, we have introduced homework diaries to help children take responsibility for their own independent learning.

### **Reading**

Children are able to choose books from the school or class library at an appropriate challenge for them. They will progress through these books as their confidence, fluency and expression increases. Guided reading will take place on a weekly basis - these sessions are for us to help the children develop a deeper understanding of the texts we read and to respond to what they read using a variety of activities.

In addition to our library, children may choose to read digital books and newspapers. The school subscribes to the First News, a weekly newspaper for young people. Children have a link and login for this on Google Classroom. They can also read e-books via Oxford Owl or Reading Eggs, searching for suitable titles in their age range.

How can you help your child to read?

- Listen to your child read as often as possible
- Provide time for your child to read on their own and for enjoyment e.g. before bed, in order to foster a lifelong enjoyment of stories.
- When reading stories and home readers, ask questions such as What do you think will happen?....How do you think he feels?.....What is she thinking?.....What would you do if?.....Why did they do that?.....What did you like best?.....

### **Spellings**

Spellings will be words that your child asks for in class or mis-spells in their work. They will learn these independently, writing them in their spelling log. Children can use registration time to practise and learn their words. In addition, children may choose words using School Links via Google Classroom if they wish to, and play spelling games by logging on to Reading Eggs.

### **Maths**

We use a range of resources and schemes to deliver the curriculum, ensuring our lessons are aimed to challenge and stretch all abilities. We have been moving towards more contextual/real-life maths learning which has proven very successful with the children.

Children are set for Big Maths, which focuses on core mental skills and number, so they can be taught at their level three times a week.

Learn-its are specific number bonds and tables that the children just have to learn by heart. They are introduced incrementally and the children are tested on them weekly as part of their Big Maths lessons. We use part of Big Maths lessons to practise them, but it is crucial that they also practise them at home. By the end of Year 4, the majority of pupils should know all their number bonds and all tables (to 10x10) for instant recall. Please continue to help your child at home to recall times table facts if they don't already know them.

**MyMaths** - your child's username and password for MyMaths should be the same as last year. If you have any trouble accessing, please send in a note to your class teacher and they will send you the details. Tasks will be from time to time set to consolidate learning as appropriate. There is a lot more you can explore and practise on the site as well if a specific task is not set.

### **Snacks/Drinks**

Your child may bring a snack from home (please make sure it is a healthy snack). Each child is also encouraged to keep a bottle of water in the classroom. Could you please provide a clean named bottle of water.

### **PE**

PE is now on a Monday and Tuesday. Children should come to school dressed in their PE kit. Ensure that they have joggers or leggings for colder weather.

### **Wet Playtimes**

It is school policy for children to go out to play if it is only raining lightly. Therefore your child will need a suitable coat in school for these times.

### **Health**

Please keep us informed of any medical changes that may affect your child in school. In the juniors, asthmatics look after their own inhalers which they keep in their drawers and should take with them on trips.

### **Going Home/Bus arrangements**

If your child attends after school clubs and/or is having different going home arrangements, please can you write a quick letter to avoid any panic at the end of the day, phone calls home or you needing to call school.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please don't hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Many thanks,

Emma Graham

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