



THERE'S NO FULL STOP TO LEARNING

YEAR 6 NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you and your families are well and are managing to get through these troubled times we find ourselves in. I'm delighted that school is re-opening: hopefully the familiarity and routine will help the children rediscover a sense of normality after nearly 6 months of uncertainty. I am even more delighted that I will get to teach your children this year. Having had the pleasure of teaching them before, I'm sure my amazing Year 3 class will be even more amazing as Year 6s.

Due to the pandemic, school will be slightly different this year. The following adjustments have had to be made to our class routine. The pupils are to wear their own clothes for the first term; please make sure your child is wearing fresh clothes every day. Also, as the weather does what it wants, please make sure your child has a waterproof jacket with them. Year 6 will start the day at 8:30am and finish at 2:45pm. Pupils will enter and leave through the green door. Some parents may have siblings in other year groups with different drop-off times. Please let the office know and they will try their best to accommodate this. All students will have lunch in their classrooms. Harrisons have sent through their menu for those children who have school meals. Please make sure your child has a reusable water bottle to take to and from school each day. The children will not need to wear masks in class. The school will also provide hand sanitiser so there will be no need for the children to bring in their own.

Despite these precautions, our curriculum will remain as fun as ever. In class the children will be supported by our teaching assistant **Natasha Harriott**, and **Kate Hartill** will be with us every morning. This term our **topic** will be based around the book **Holes**. We will be looking at topics such as racism, poverty and crime and punishment. Lots to get our teeth into! In Maths we will be focusing on **number** for the first half term, focusing on place value, mental maths and the four operations. Our **science** topic is **Animals including Humans**. We will be looking at the circulatory and digestive systems, diet and the effects of harmful drugs on the body. Year 6 children will be set a **homework project** related to their topic every half term. More details will follow next week. There will also be a **weekly spelling task** to learn. This won't be a list of words to remember but will focus on spelling rules and using words in context. These activities will go home in the children's reading journals every **Monday** beginning **September 14thth**. **PE** is every Monday and Friday- please ensure your child has a fully **labelled** PE kit and brings it to school on these days. We will have a specialist coach doing interval training with the children each Friday- perfect for keeping fit! In Harmony will also restart this term. The school will contact parents once we know the days on which specific instruments will be taught.

As we are aware that the children have not been in school for nearly 6 months, we will be doing everything we can to get the class up to speed and catch them up on the learning they have missed. I will be assessing the children in the first week to identify gaps in their learning and planning accordingly. Please make sure your child reads regularly. Ask your child questions to check their understanding of what they have read, see if they can make predictions about the story and understand character motives and feelings. We will be reading in class in guided reading groups during the week and completing a reading comprehension once a week.

The children will be able to take home books from our school library and class book corner to read independently.

In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, our usual Year 6 coffee morning and Secondary Transfer meeting will be held remotely. I will contact you when we know the dates for both events. Also due to social distancing guidelines, parents will no longer be able to enter the school building. This will pose difficulties for parents wanting to get in touch with me. If you have any concerns or queries, please feel free to email me at the address below: Christopher.marley@reay.lambeth.sch.uk

Please note I will not be free to check my emails during class time. If you need to contact the school about something urgent, please ring the office.

Finally, I want to say that the last six months have been hard on everybody. We have been separated from our friends and families, forced to remain indoors and listen to what seems like a never-ending stream of negativity on the news. Coming back the school is a big step for the children, most whom will not have seen their classmates or teachers since March. It is, however, a necessary step for them to get back to some sort of normality. We will be doing everything we can to keep them safe and happy and to make sure they enjoy their final year at Reay. I can't wait to have them back.

Kind regards,
Chris Marley, Kate Hartill, Natasha Harriott and Jo Ouazene