WEST HADDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term 1

Year 6

Welcome

I hope you have all had a restful summer and that your children have re-charged their batteries ready for the new school year. The children have returned to school full of enthusiam and are very eager to learn.

This year is obviously a very important one, with the SATs tests later in the summer. SATs award a 'grade', but more importantly the concepts covered in a SATs paper are those that the children will need to know for a successful transition into year 7 learning.

The children are looking forward to the roles and responsibilities that come in year 6. A particular favourite is the buddy system with reception children, where they help the younger children settle in the Lunch Hall and find their way back to the reception classroom and then onto the playgrounds. As a buddy, year 6 also help the younger children walk to the church and back for Community Worship. The experiences they have through buddying-up with the younger children helps them to develop a range of social skills and prepares them for the greater responsibilities that come in secondary school.

Dates and Things to Remember

Year 6 will have a whole afternoon of P.E. on Tuesdays. This session will be taught by Mr Stoneman. Please can children keep their PE kits in their lockers throughout the week so that they do not miss out on this important lesson.

It would be helpful if the children could also keep an old shirt (with long sleeves) at school to protect their school uniform when painting etc.

Maths & English

Teaching and learning in both maths and English is guided by the government's National Curriculum, and the gaps identified in earlier test papers. As well as daily English and maths lessons, we will run small-group interventions for a number of children. These are aimed at continuing to fill gaps in knowledge and prepare children for SATs and a successful academic transition into secondary school.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Thursday and needs to be handed in on a Tuesday. Spelling tests will take place on Thursday. Completion of homework is essential for success in year 6 and gets the children into good homework habits ready for their secondary school.

As a part of the SATs tests, children sit a 20 word spelling test of unseen words. These spellings account for one-third of the total marks in the Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar paper. As such, a good spelling score is essential in passing this paper. Please help you child learn their spellings each week by regularly learning the words and the spelling rules/ patterns in the list. 15 minutes daily is ideal. Learning the words the night/ morning before the weekly test only places the words in the short- term memory, it does not embed the words in the long-term memory, ready for May tests.

Topic

Our topic this term is Ancient Egypt. We will look at the hunt for Tutankhamun's tomb led by the well-known archaeologist Howard Carter. We learn the importance of the River Nile to the Ancient Egyptians, and how annual flooding allowed crops to be grown along the riverbank. A particular favourite with the children is learning about the Egyptian's belief of the afterlife and the process of mummification.

Our Value for this month is: Friendship

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