



## Welcome back

Just like that, your child is now in year six, about to embark on a very important year of learning which will be their last year in primary school. You may well ask yourself where the last six years went, with it seeming like only yesterday that your precious little four-year-old darlings stood on their front doorstep and posed for their very first photo in school uniform. Ah yes, the time has flown by!

## Reading is everything

I'm sure you're wondering what you can do at home as enthusiastic and diligent parents to support your children's learning whilst they are at home. I cannot make this message more clear – **READING IS EVERYTHING**. Just ask your child, they will already know. In year six we read a varied and healthy diet of young people's literature and even though some of these children are a little large to sit on your lap and share a book with, time spent reading with your child is still of tremendous value. Ask your child what book they are reading. Ask them about the characters, get them to make predictions, see similarities between books and films, and do your best to protect their space in your house for quiet reading.

## Year six information evening

One of the many ways that we communicate with parents are through information evenings. We are holding an information evening for parents of year six children on Tuesday 19th September at 6pm. It will be a chance to hear all about:

- The year six curriculum
- Learning at home
- The end of year assessments (SATS!)
- Sleep, health and mobile phones
- Preparation for secondary school

Since I wish to address some rather sensitive issues, it would not be appropriate for children to attend.

## Important dates for you diary

Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th September - **Bikeability group 1**

Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th September - **Bikeability group 2**

Tuesday 19th September 6:00pm - **Welcome to year six information evening**

Tuesday 26th September - **Morning year six trip to Safety Zone (we will be back for lunch)**

Friday 29th September - **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Friday 6th October - **Harvest Festival**

Tuesday 17th October and Wednesday 18th October - **Parents Evenings**

Friday 20th October - **Last day of the half term.**

## From field to factory

Our main topic this half term is entitled *From Field to Factory* and it tells the story of the Industrial Revolution. There will be plenty of reading to do (remember - reading is everything) and so much to notice, wonder and learn. We will be taking a class trip to the Framework Knitter's museum in Ruddington, details of which will follow shortly.

If you wish to embark on something a little more independent, might I suggest a little trip down to the Nottingham Grantham canal? Hickling Basin or parts of Cotgrave Country Park are a good place to start. Let the children come to understand what a feat of engineering and manpower it must have been to shift such quantities of earth by hand! Other great places to see some of the marvels of steam power at work include the Steam Hall at Wollaton Hall or the Abbey Pumping Station museum at Leicester. For those wanting to go further afield I can thoroughly recommend a trip to the National Coal mining museum in Yorkshire. It gives a very... immersive experience!



## Bike-ability

Bikeability is one of the first rites of passage to happen in year six. The children are assessed on their bike riding competence on the playground by the qualified instructors. Once the children have demonstrated their control, they are allowed to put what they have learned to practice



on the roads of Keyworth. This happens next week, look out for a sperate letter with more details!

## The year six team

I would like to introduce those of you who have not already had the pleasure of her company to Mrs Armitage. She will be working closely with the year six class and has taught more primary children than I've had hot dinners. She will be in the classroom most days. The children will also get to know Mr Magner a little better. He will teach the class on Thursdays whilst I work more closely with Mrs Ballard. As a retired headteacher, he adds a lot to our team. We've had our eye on this cohort as they have moved through the school and are looking forward to working with your delightful children this year!

## Don't hesitate to get in touch

If, for whatever reason you need to get in touch with me, don't hesitate. I prefer face to face meetings, on the playground or in my classroom if you prefer but will happily chat on the phone. The absolute best way to contact me is with a handwritten note placed in your child's hand. That way, I'll definitely see it that very morning and have all the people I need to be involved right there in front of me. I will probably call you back by the end of the day if that is what is required...