



Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and welcome to Year 6! I am looking forward to welcoming the children again and embarking on what promises to be a fantastic year. Year 6 is always filled with fun and laughter. I hope you all had a wonderful summer, are feeling well-rested, and are as excited as I am for the year ahead. To help you feel organised and supported, I have included some key information in this letter.

A little bit about me: I have been teaching for more than 18 years now, with most of that time spent teaching in Year 6. I am incredibly passionate about this year group, as I believe it is vital for children to create wonderful memories during their primary school journey. I strive to make learning fun and engaging, often filling lessons with interactive activities and games. Mrs Walker, our dedicated teaching assistant, has also been supporting children for over 18 years. Mrs Walker is very experienced and is exceptional at aiding children to access lessons and running intervention groups to ensure every child receives the support they need.

This term, there are a host of exciting activities awaiting your children. I encourage you to take a look at our Learning Jigsaw, which outlines the topics and events planned. Some highlights that previous children have thoroughly enjoyed include a heart dissection lesson and creating replica blood in Science, swimming sessions, exploring Brazilian exports and tasting them, as well as delving into the engaging book "Varmints," which explores the important messages and themes around our environmental footprint.

Over the summer, we have been arranging the classroom to cater to the needs of your children. This includes an intervention table at the front for additional learning support, a quiet book corner for reflection and reading, and small support groups for any additional needs. Additionally, we have established a well-being station where children can 'check in' each morning, filling out their names in designated boxes to communicate their feelings. Please be assured that we will promptly check in with anyone who places their name in the red box and regularly conduct silent check-ins for those in the orange box.

PE will be on a Wednesday this half term and it will be swimming. Therefore, children should come to school dressed in their PE kits, ready for swimming with the necessary towels and costumes. It is important to follow our PE uniform guideline: navy or black joggers or shorts, a school-branded or plain navy/white T-shirt, black, white or grey socks and trainers. We kindly request that anyone with shoulder length or longer hair tie their hair up on these days and remember to bring swimming hats. A gentle reminder that no earrings are permitted in the swimming pool.

Swimming is a compulsory part of the primary National Curriculum in all schools and therefore participation in the sessions is not optional. There is a standard that children are expected to meet before the end of Year 6 and we are committed to supporting children to meet this standard. Children who do not meet this level by the end of the Autumn Term will be able to swim again in the Summer Term. Engaging in each swimming session in this next block will give the children the best chance of making the most progress they can. If you have any specific concerns about swimming, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are

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Head of School: Mrs Amy Preece

very used to supporting children who are nervous about swimming and will help any children that may require it with sensitivity.

Homework is essential in Year 6 and becomes more of a responsibility for the children in order to prepare them for the transition to high school. We expect children to complete four home reads per week (each lasting 20 minutes), as well as engage in 10 minutes of times tables revision via TTRockstars, and 10 minutes of addition and subtraction revision through Numbots. After each unit, there will also be a paper copy of maths homework to reinforce their learning, preparing them for secondary school expectations. To support homework completion, we will have a TTRockstar club running weekly which your child will be most welcome to join should they wish to. Children should also continue to make use of their Grafitti Spelling book.

Please log your child's home reading on Boom Reader. We check this platform daily in class in order to track the children's engagement and celebrate those that are meeting the expectations of regular home reading. Your child's log in details remain the same but if you require another copy of these, please let me know.

Your child will continue to have access to their Seesaw account; their login details remain the same. On here, optional homework activities will be posted, should children wish to do some learning at home. This is also a platform where children can upload any other learning they have done, share any out of school achievements or post photos from an exciting trip that they would like to share with school. This platform will also be used for setting work for any children who are away from school for an extended period and require learning to complete from home.

All children have time to eat a piece of fruit or veg and have a drink of milk or water during morning break. Please ensure that the only snack sent in for breaktime is a piece of fruit or veg. Milk, provided by school, will need to be ordered and paid for in advance - please contact the admin office if you wish for your child to have milk. All children need to bring their own named water bottle to school each day to keep themselves hydrated.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September I will be holding an open classroom 'Meet the Teacher' event. This will be straight after school at 3:20pm. It is an opportunity for you to meet me and see the classroom – it's also a chance to ask any questions you may have and learn more about life in Year 5.

Lastly, I am looking forward to collaborating with you to provide the best experience for your children as they enter their final year of primary school. If you wish to contact me, please feel free to reach out via email at [KOCallaghanJames@kingstoneacademy.co.uk](mailto:KOCallaghanJames@kingstoneacademy.co.uk).

Warm regards,



Kirsty O'Callaghan-James  
Year 6 Teacher