



Wednesday 4th September 2019

Welcome to Year Six - Alder Class!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and to Year Six after what I trust was an enjoyable and refreshing Summer Holiday. Year Six is both an exciting and challenging year. It is a year for milestones to be celebrated as the pupils enjoy their last year of primary school: reflecting back over their first years of school while also working hard to prepare for both their end of Key Stage Two SATs Tests and High School. This makes it a busy and focused year with hard work and responsibilities - being Buddies to Reception pupils, prefect duties and being the 'senior pupils' at Cawston Primary Academy. Equally, it is a year full of fun and rewarding learning experiences. While the expectations will be high and every day will be focused on learning, my aim is for everyone in Alder Class to enjoy every aspect of school, have a great year and to achieve their very best through engaging learning.

Our class topics and whole-class books for the year are as follows:

	Topic	Book
Autumn Term, 1 st Half	Who's the Mummy? Ancient Egypt & Modern-day Egypt	Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll
Autumn Term, 2 nd Half	Pole to Pole Antarctic and Arctic	Shackleton's Journey by William Grill
Spring Term, 1 st Half	Homefront Heroes World War Two	Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll
Spring Term, 2 nd Half	Dance through the Decades Music, Dance and Fashion 1950's - 1980's	The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd
Summer Term, 1 st Half	A Time to Shine Shakespeare and Theatre	Macbeth - different age-appropriate versions of text and animated video
Summer Term, 2 nd Half	You're Hired! Enterprise	The Viewer - Gary Crew

Please find this half-term's Topic Web attached to see what we will be learning about in Year Six.

Working in partnership

We need **your** help to make Year Six great! Are you able to volunteer? Alder Class are in need of some parents to come in to listen to reading. We would also love some help at the upcoming class bake sale, when we have Topic days and for any school trips. If you are able to help, please come and in and let me know or send me an e-mail.





Reading

We do LOTS of reading in Year Six - regular reading as well as reading a variety of books and texts (magazines, newspapers and online reading) will help with both reading fluency and comprehension. This week I will ensure that everyone in Alder Class has a Reading Record, be it new or continuing on from last year, and a reading book. We will continue to use Accelerated Reader - this means that your child will be reading books accurately matched to their reading level **every day** at school. The expectation is for Year Sixes to also be reading **daily at home for a minimum of 20 minutes**. I also strongly encourage you to continue to listen to your child reading, a few times a week, and to talk about what they have read to check their understanding. **All** reading should be recorded in their Reading Record: please write what and when you have read with your child, add any comments and check that your child is independently recording their own reading too; we will be using and checking their Reading Records regularly while listening to reading.



Reading Area Request: The Year Sixes love being comfortable while doing their daily reading. We have some cushions and blankets in our Reading Area which are always in high demand! Have you got a cushion you no longer use? We're looking for some donations of good quality, clean cushions.

Homework

Homework will be handed out on a Thursday at the latest and is to be returned by the following Tuesday.

Weekly homework will consist of:

- Homework web tasks - **one** task to be completed each week in their homework book; most homework tasks require some planning and research so best not to be done on a Monday evening! Encourage your child to do the majority of this on their own. Have high expectations - all homework tasks should be **well presented** in their Homework book, including the use of black pen and joined up handwriting.
- Spellings - practiced on the sheet and learnt well, ready for the **weekly spelling test every Wednesday**.
- Times Tables - to also be practiced and learnt to ensure that your child knows their tables fluently by heart.
- Year Sixes will also receive revision workbooks during the Autumn Term, in the form of 'SATs Buster' Books. Some 10-minute tasks will be completed in class while some will be sent out as homework.

The Homework Web for this half-term has been glued into their homework books, ready to begin.

P.E. Lessons & Swimming

PE lessons will take place on Monday and Thursday, although these days are flexible. Please check that your child has their **full PE Kit**: white t-shirt and red shorts; black joggers; sturdy sports trainers and socks. **All PE Kit needs to be clearly labelled with their name** and brought into school in a secure draw-string bag (please no plastic carrier bags nor bulky tog bags). PE Kit must come into school **every Monday** and left on their coat peg for the week. During this term pupils working towards their 25m swimming target will attend swimming lessons for their PE every alternate Thursday, beginning on Thursday 12th September (a swimming letter will follow shortly).

LOtC

All pupils need to have their own waterproofs and pair of Wellies. Please ensure that your child has these items in ASAP, clearly labelled with their name and in a sturdy, non-bulky bag. LOtC gear can be left on their coat pegs for the half-term, ready for whenever we take our learning outdoors.



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Bake Sale

Alder Class will be having their class bake sale on **Friday 13th September**. Please do support this by providing baked goods - homemade or shop-bought. The more we get, the more we sell and all of our profit will go towards a planned class trip, to help to reduce the cost. Also, please let me know if you are able to help with setting up from 2:45pm and the selling.

Egypt Day

We will be having a class Topic day about Ancient Egypt on **Wednesday 18th September**. Please send your child dressed in role as an Egyptian (try to re-use their costumes from their Greek day; use sheets, towels and lengths of fabric with shorts and t-shirt underneath). We will be making our own Egyptian collars towards the start of the day, which can be worn for the remainder of the day. We will be doing a wide variety of activities, covering aspects of the curriculum, many of which will be practical, such as making papyrus and writing in hieroglyphs, mummifying tomatoes and preparing and taking part in an Egyptian banquet. To help to cover the cost we ask each pupil to please bring in a £3 contribution by Monday 9th September. Again, if you are able to help for all or a part of this day, please do let me know as soon as possible.



I look forward to a busy, focused yet fun-filled year with **LOTS** of engaging learning taking place! If you have **any** questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to meet with me.

Kind regards,

Mrs D. Dafforn

Alder Class Teacher

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