



Warwick Road
Bishop Auckland
DL14 6LS
19 December, 2017

Tel: +44-(0)1388-60-33-59
Fax: +44-(0)1388-60-64-20
Email: stannes.@durhamlearning.net

St. Anne's C.E. Primary School

Dear Parents,

Firstly may I welcome you to the start of what is undoubtedly an important school year here at St. Anne's for your child/children. Year 6 is important for many reasons, whether it be because it is the final year of your child's primary education, or the year in which they prepare themselves for moving on up into secondary school, or even because of the SATS (*shhhh* don't say that word too loudly!). Please be assured that we here at St. Anne's want the best for each and every child and we will endeavour to ensure that they all reach their potential, whatever it may be.

Following this, I'm thrilled that I will once again be supported by Mrs Colman, for four mornings a week. She will be responsible for providing targeted teaching to various small groups of children in Maths and English in the areas they require. We are extremely fortunate to be able to call upon her experience and knowledge of KS2 and she, without doubt, will continue to be a major asset to our Year 6 provision.

So that we have an efficient and hassle free start to the year I've outlined some information below which I hope will answer a few questions that you may have buzzing around your head. To begin with, homework is given weekly and mainly focuses on English and Maths (rather than a creative grid). The work that is sent home on a Friday will reinforce the class teaching from that week and it is expected that this be completed and returned for the following Wednesday. In addition to the weekly English and Maths, spellings and times tables will also be given out. These are tested every Friday morning. I cannot emphasise the importance of these two parts of homework, as from my experience with the revised SATS, spelling and mental arithmetic play a key role in them. To complement this there will also be a half termly project centred around the topic for that term. This allows the children to let their imagination run wild and to create a project in the manner in which they want to. More information on this will be given at a later date, but it is hoped that children enjoy this task and that they share their learning with their family.

Behind this weekly homework there is an expectation that the children read regularly using the books from the reading scheme at school. It is vital that your child reads regularly and that they complete tests on a regular basis. This home reading will be complimented with daily reading sessions in school, where children will be able to complete tests and school staff can listen to smaller groups read.

Later this term, we start to provide SATS boosters for the whole class in order that we can address any issues that may be occurring. More information will be provided at a later date but they have proven extremely beneficial for the pupils and they really help their confidence when approaching their tests. You will find that at this time their homework changes slightly because it will be driven by their individual booster sessions and therefore the format will change accordingly.

Throughout the year your child will become a 'Buddy' to one of our new starters in Reception. This scheme has proved a great success of the years and it has been very rewarding for the older pupils to see the difference that they have made to a small child starting at St. Anne's. We spend the first few weeks pairing the children up and ensure as best we can that the children are matched appropriately. There will be a 'Buddy Assembly' within the first few weeks so that the 'Buddies' can formally introduce themselves to their little friend down in Reception.

PE, as per other years, takes place twice weekly and it is important that children have access to a PE kit throughout the week. Their kit should contain clothes that are suitable for indoor and outdoor lessons.

Finally there is no getting away from the fact that Year 6 is the SATS year! This can be a stressful time for the children (and me!), but we do our best to prepare the children so that they can tackle them with confidence. This said, we endeavour to make the first term, leading up to Christmas, as 'normal' as possible and whilst there is an appreciation that the work they are doing is for SATS, we try extremely hard to ensure that we do not overly burden them with concerns for SATS at this point. In the following terms, increasing emphasis is put on SATS, but this is still done in a sensitive and responsible way so that children do not peak too early and that they are firing on all cylinders come SATS week.

I hope that this has answered some of your initial questions but please know that my door is always open should you have any questions and I'm extremely keen to work together with you this year so that your child/children has a fantastic and enjoyable year. I have found that a strong home/school relationship is key in ensuring children feel happy about what they are doing and that they achieve their very best.

Kind Regards,

Mr. O. Browell



