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Dear Parents,

As your child begins a new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Year 6 and provide you with some basic information about the routines and procedures of our class.

### **Staff**

The Year 6 class teacher is Miss Whitehead (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday) and Mrs McDonagh (Tuesday). The class teachers and children are supported by Mrs Lynch, Ms. Blair and Mrs Aziz, with Mrs Blakeley during maths lessons and Miss Mayall during lunchtimes.

In Y5 and Y6 Mr. Aspinall will teach English to each class and Ms. Whitehead/ Mrs. McDonagh will teach Mathematics to each class. The National Curriculum has shared objectives for Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) and we feel that this will be an effective way of utilising the skills of our teachers to secure strong pupil progress and attainment.

### **Curriculum**

Please find attached an annual overview of the topics and curriculum that we shall cover over the next academic year. This is broken down into more detail in our termly curriculum newsletter, which is available from the school office or can be viewed on the school website.

### **Uniform**

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct school uniform each day and it is labelled with their names and class. Children should wear black school shoes, not trainers; white or sky blue polo-shirt; grey trousers or skirt and a navy blue cardigan/jumper. For more information regarding our suppliers, please contact the school office.

### **Start of the day**

Miss Whitehead or Mrs McDonagh will be in class ready to receive children from 8.45 am when the bell goes. Please ensure your child is not unsupervised in the playground before this time. Children come into school, and begin their day, with 'Early Work'. This routine enables parents to access the class teacher to share information, discuss issues and ensures that there is minimal disruption to the start of the school day. Please could parents drop children off outside the classroom as there is very little room in between Y5 and Y6. We would also like to encourage children to take ownership of their own learning, which includes being organised – therefore it is their responsibility to put things in their lockers and take home anything they need.

The register is taken at 8.55 am, if children arrive after the register has been submitted, then the child should report to the school office on arrival.

### **Healthy Snack**

At Mersey Vale we have a system of healthy snacks for children to enjoy at morning break. On offer each day is wholemeal toast, yoghurts, pieces of fresh fruit, cereal bars, bread sticks, raisins, fruit juice drinks, water etc. The price of snacks is 25p per item and should be paid online using Parentpay. Most children have two items each day (snack and drink) and this costs £2.50 per week. Children who prefer to bring their own snack may bring healthy items but chocolate biscuits, crisps, sweets and fizzy drinks **must not** be brought as



snacks. Our school policy is that children should only have healthy snacks at morning playtime. Please help your child to make healthy choices.

### **End of the day**

Children in Year 6 are dismissed from the classroom into the playground. It is important that all children are collected by an adult if they do not have written permission to walk home by themselves, children in Y6 are aware that they must return to the classroom if they have not been collected. If there are any changes to picking up arrangements please let the school office know before 3pm. We would encourage you to collect your youngest child first wherever possible. Children cannot be sent to different classes to pick up siblings as each class teacher has responsibility for the children in their class. If children who are usually collected have not been by 3.25pm, they will be sent to the office and then to our after school club, which will incur a cost.

### **P.E**

All classes take part in weekly PE sessions of gymnastics/dance/games/swimming as timetabled. Children are expected to change into their PE kit; Mersey Vale PE kit is available - t-shirt, shorts and PE bag. Children should also have navy jogging bottoms and sweatshirt in cold weather. A special hooded sweatshirt with the school logo is available and costs approximately £12.25 depending on the size. Please speak to the school office for more information about how any of these items can be ordered. Please ensure all items of clothing have your child's name in. We find it most useful for children to bring PE kits into school on Monday and leave them in school until Friday. **Y6 PE is on a Wednesday afternoon, with gymnastics on a Friday afternoon (Autumn Term only) dance on a Thursday morning (Spring Term only) and Swimming on a Thursday afternoon (Summer Term only).**

### **Homework**

Homework is given to all children in line with our Homework Policy. Brief details of the homework are as follows:

- Homework is given out each Friday to be handed back into class the following Thursday.
- Spellings are given out each Tuesday to be tested the following Tuesday.
- All children have a home/school reading record book and should be reading for pleasure if they have finished the reading scheme (Pearl is the last book band). Children are to take ownership of their learning and we encourage all children to keep a record of what they are reading and write a brief book review. Their reading records are checked regularly by staff.
- Details of your child's homework will also be available through Class Dojo.
- Please avoid using CPG or DfE resources as these are used to support booster groups and 1:1 tuition in school.
- Revision books will be distributed at the beginning of the Spring Term.

### **School Trips and outings**

Throughout the year the children will be given the opportunity to enjoy and take part in a full range of educational and sporting activities, both within and outside of school.

We follow local authority guidance with regards to ratios of children to adults and teachers complete a standard risk assessment on all outings. Letters with relevant information and consent forms will be sent to you when appropriate.

Kingswood letters will be distributed to all children in Y6 shortly, if you don't receive one, please contact the school office. We encourage all children in Y6 to attend as it is their final opportunity to attend a residential at Mersey Vale. Further information regarding payment plans etc. can be found in the initial letter.

### **Managing Medical Needs**

We support and welcome pupils with medical conditions and aim to provide all pupils with medical conditions with the same opportunities as others at school. The school understands the importance of medication being taken as prescribed and parents must complete an authorisation form for this. All medication should be kept in our locked medicines cabinet and inhalers are kept in the school office. Some children in the school suffer from asthma and have inhalers to be taken when needed. Children's

inhalers should be kept where they are easily accessible to them e.g. in the office. Any child who uses an inhaler must also have it available during any off-site lessons such as swimming or a school trip. There are children in school with nut allergies and request that children refrain from bringing in snacks and packed lunches that contain nuts.

### **Medicines in School**

No child is allowed to self administer medicine in school. Only Mrs Mullane, and the office staff are allowed to give a child medication eg. prescribed 4 times a day medication. Parents should make a requests for medicine to be administered to the school office and/or Mrs. Mullane.

### **Finally...**

I'm sure you may have many more questions and I encourage you to pop into school and ask! In the meantime, there is a lot more information available via our school website, the Year Six Twitter page and on Class Dojo.

Many thanks

The Year Six Team