



John Blandy Primary School

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely summer break. We are excited to be back in school and are very much looking forward to working with the children in Year 5/6 this year.

We have three classes working together this year: Maple being taught by Mrs Williams, Willow being taught by Mrs Kane and Poplar being taught by Miss Matheson and Mrs Fleet. All of the classes have TAs supporting the children and will be working with children in Year 5/6. We are excited to have the classes arranged this way and are looking forward to wonderful year together. Our focus text for the autumn term is 'The London Eye Mystery' and we already have lots of great activities lined up to link with the setting of this text. The topic overview for the term is attached with this letter.

Morning and home time arrangements

The children will enter via Fir Tree gate each morning and make their way to their classroom independently. The gate will close promptly at 8:40am. If you need to speak with one of us, the best time to catch us is at the end of the day or you can make an appointment via the office. Should you have a quick message for us then, please write a note or email us via the office. At the end of the school day, the children will be walked out onto the KS1 playground with an adult to meet you, this will be new for Year 5, but we will have practised it this week. The three classes will be brought out to the ball post alongside Elm class. A letter will be sent home for you to inform us if you would like your child to walk home on their own at the end of the school day.

If your child walks to and from school without an adult they can bring a mobile phone with them, however they need to be turned off as they enter Fir Tree Close and turned on as they leave. Once in school, they must be handed into the class box. It is at their own risk and own responsibility bringing in phones and this will be discussed in more detail at 'Meet the Teacher' meetings in September. Children who are not walking to and from school independently should not be bringing mobile phones to school.

Water bottles and Uniform

Please ensure that your child has a clearly named water bottle so that they may have easy access to drinking water throughout the day. It is always helpful to have all school uniform and PE kit clearly named so that children and staff know who they belong to. We work closely with our secondary schools to enhance transition from Primary and therefore in Year 5/6 in order to start preparing the children for secondary school, we would like the children to bring in their PE kit (including a pair of suitable trainers) on the days they have PE and not leave it in school. This will start to develop independence and responsibility, which are key skills in preparing for secondary school.

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Please do ensure these are in school for our PE days which are:

Maple- Tuesday and Wednesday

Willow- Monday and Thursday

Poplar- Monday and Wednesday

During the colder weather we would encourage children to wear plain black or navy-blue joggers/leggings as most P.E lessons will be outside. PE kit should not be heavily labelled with logos.

Homework

Homework this year will focus on reading, spelling and maths. Homework books need to be handed in on a Monday and will be re-issued on a Wednesday. Spellings and times tables (or maths facts) will be tested at the beginning of the week. Reading, spellings and times tables practise all need to be recorded on your child's weekly homework sheet.

Spellings – initially these will be based on the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 spelling lists and will then progress on to spelling rules. Please encourage your child to learn these spellings at least 4x a week, using the strategies that have been taught in both Year 5 and in Year 6. They can also practise on Spelling Shed.

Reading- Your child will be expected to read at least 5x a week and record this information in their homework diaries. We would like your child to read an appropriate book for their reading age and to be aiming to read a wide range of texts, including fiction and non-fiction. The focus of this reading should be for enjoyment.

Times tables- We will have a weekly times tables test however at times, the focus will be on certain maths facts that need to be learnt.

Further information on the weekly homework can be found in the letters at the front of your child's homework book.

Year 6- additional homework

As you are no doubt aware, this year your child will be taking their SATs, which will be a culmination of their learning over Key Stage 2. We will be encouraging and supporting the children to be ready and prepared over the next year, so that we can reduce any anxiety or worry and enable them to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding, with confidence.

Each year, we ask Year 6 parents to purchase additional books for the children to complete their homework in. This homework is based upon work we have covered in class and enables the children to reinforce their understanding of the skills being taught. Within the first couple of weeks, we will be getting to know the

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children and assessing where they are working at - this information will then provide us with a picture of the homework books that your child will need for both Maths and SPaG. More information will be provided on these books within the first few weeks.

Equipment

We have asked that the children bring in their own pencil case that will remain at school. Ideally, it will contain the following: pencil, rubber, 15 cm ruler, **blue ink** fountain pen or rollerball pen (no biro's please unless through discussion with class teacher), glue stick, coloured pencils and pencil sharpener (no felt tips please). They will also need to have a reading book with them daily either from home or the school library.

Flexible groupings

As shared in previous communication with you by Mrs Elliott, in her letter sharing which class your child would be in, we will be grouping the children flexibly for maths, using recent assessments to help us to decide their maths groups. This will be familiar to the children as we used this approach in Year 3/4 for these cohorts in maths and we found it to be very successful. Please be assured that the children will receive the curriculum they need offering both challenge and support where needed.

Upcoming dates:

Thursday 11th September – Y5/6 Parents' meeting (online) at 3:20pm – 3:50pm. A Google Meet link will be sent prior to the meeting.

Tuesday 30th September- (Yr 6 Willow and Poplar) IMPS session.

Tuesday 7th October- (Yr 6 Maple) IMPS session.

Wednesday 8th October- Willow class STEM Day at Williams F1.

Thursday 9th October- Poplar class STEM Day at Williams F1.

Friday 10th October- Maple class STEM Day at Williams F1.

Monday 6th and 13th October/Monday 10th, 17th, 24th November/ 1st December- Swimming at St Hughs' School for all Year 5 and invited Year 6.

Parent Helpers:

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Throughout the year, we have various trips, sporting fixtures and events taking place for which we will need parent helpers. If you are interested in being a parent helper this year, please could you email the office to let us know, if possible, indicating which days of the week you are available. We can then pull together a list of volunteers that we can call upon. Where parents volunteer as drivers, you will be requested to complete paperwork ahead of any trip eg: insurance details, MOT etc.

We are all very much looking forward to working with the children this year and sharing their achievements with you. If at any point, you have queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us, either via a message to the office, by making a note in the homework books or catching one of us at the end of the day.

Kind regards,

Year 5/6 Team

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