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# Simmondley Primary School

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10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to your child's final year at Simmondley School! The children have already settled well into Oak class and are enthusiastic and excited to learn new things.

Below is some key information which should answer any questions about your child's experience in Year 6. However, if there is anything I have not included, or if there is anything you would like to let me know, you can contact me directly on our class email address:

[oak@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:oak@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk)

## **Emotional wellbeing**

In our PSHE (personal, social, health education) lessons, we will be exploring feelings, including those of anxiety or worry. The children have already made a great start in these lessons and show a high level of emotional awareness. Please use the email above if there is anything you need to make me aware of or any way you feel I could support your child.

## **Topics this term**

We begin the year with a focus on Ancient Greece. We will be learning about Greek mythology, recreating Greek works of art, and listening to our class novel, 'Who let the Gods out' by Maz Evans. In science, we will be studying 'Earth in Space'.

## **Homework**

### **Reading**

At this level, where many children have achieved reading fluency, it is still important to develop children's understanding and appreciation of what they read. For this reason, we ask that you continue to read with your child *at least twice a week*, and record these sessions in your child's reading record. In order to attain the 'expected level' for reading, the children must be able to make **inferences** and **predictions** about characters and situations, so questioning them about what they have read helps them "read between the lines" - this is especially valuable.

It is really important they have reading **stamina** and can sustain their reading over longer periods of time.

Understanding **vocabulary** is also very important in both reading and writing. To broaden the range of vocabulary that they understand and are confident to use in their independent writing,

we are asking children to identify at least 3 words each week that they did not fully understand, to find the meaning of these words, and to record these in their reading record, maybe with example sentences of how the words could be used. Reading records will be monitored every Friday to check progress and to 'collect' any exciting new words.

### Maths

Maths homework this term will be regular practice on TT rock stars (Times table rock stars). We are aiming for immediate recall of times tables. It is better to log on for five minutes every day than to do just one longer session – perhaps a 5-minute slot could be introduced to your child's daily routine. We will be able to monitor the children's progress on TT rock stars, and will begin to see greater confidence and fluency as the children use their tables across the maths curriculum.

### Spellings

Spellings will be posted on google classroom every Thursday for a test the following Thursday. We will continue to learn spelling rules and the Year5/6 words which children should use and spell correctly in their own work **most** of the time.

### PE/Games

PE lessons this term will be taught by Mr Sheldon on Tuesday afternoons. **Children should come into school wearing their outdoor PE kit instead of school uniform on a Tuesday.** The lesson is at the end of the day, so they can get changed when they get home from school and will not be sitting in sweaty clothes all day! The second PE slot this term will be a weekly swimming lesson – information about this was sent out in a separate letter.

### Timetable

I have a designated day each week for my role as Senco (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) - this term it will be a Thursday. When I am not teaching, the children will be taught by Mrs Worrall. Mrs Worrall and I work very closely together and communicate daily about the children's progress and wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any concerns about how your child is progressing, or how they are settling in, please use the class email and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Best wishes,

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