Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we would like to welcome you back to school - we hope you and your child/children had a wonderful summer break and are looking forward to the new term ahead. Year 6 is a very important and exciting year with our residential trip to Arthog, our links with the West Mercia Police for Crucial Crew and taking on special responsibilities within school. There are just a few things we'd like to share with you about our expectations in Year 6 and working with your child at home.

## Reading

We complete whole class reading sessions daily in school and, as part of these sessions, your child will have the opportunity to hear texts read aloud by an adult, discuss a range of texts and answer a variety of questions about the text. We still expect children to be reading regularly at home to practise and develop their skills and they will have the opportunity to share the texts they read at home and any recommendations with their peers.

## Times Tables and Minute Maths

As the children are aware, times tables are **crucial** in all areas of maths work. As calculations become more complex and we explore topics such as fractions, decimals, percentages, algebra, area and square and cube numbers in more depth, a limited knowledge of tables facts becomes a real barrier to learning. We know that the children have taken their multiplication check and know their scores, however regular practise is still needed for these facts to be securely embedded in the long term. We are therefore practising tables facts every day and any additional practise that your child can do outside of school hours will improve their knowledge even further – Times Tables Rockstars is a fabulous online resource for which your child has their own password. We also complete Minute Maths daily and practise sheets will be sent home when they are completed.

## Spellings

**Weekly spellings are set on a Thursday and are tested on the following Thursday.** We will always go through these in school - however, they should also be practised regularly at home. Your child has been given a range of spelling strategies in their homework book to support them in learning their spellings.

Finally, just a reminder that our **PE days for this half term will be a Tuesday (hockey) and Thursday (yoga).** Therefore, children will need to come to school dressed in their PE kits on these days. Please ensure that your child has suitable kit and footwear for each of these sessions, especially as the weather becomes colder.

Thank you for your cooperation. Our door is always open should you have any concerns or questions.

Kind regards,

Mr Firmstone-Hill and Miss Tyson

Our key theme for the term will be 'Exploring the Americas' and then we will be moving onto 'The Ancient Maya' after half-term. Below you can see an overview of the learning that will take place across the curriculum in the Autumn term.

