Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break. I have very much enjoyed getting to know my Year 6 class and watching them grow over the past term, and I am looking forward to celebrating their achievements over our final two terms.

This is an incredibly important year for Year 6 pupils and it is essential that they continue to work hard in school and at home to ensure that they have a successful year in preparation for the opportunities at secondary school. Along with all children in state schools across the country, children will be sitting KS2 Assessments in May. We are continuing to ensure that the children are well prepared for these tests in the summer. I shall be holding a meeting for parents on the **4th February 2016 at 6pm,** to explain the tests and how we can work together to ensure that children are happy and confident during this time.

Please find below the homework expectations for Year 6 children this year. Please note that they require a good level of adult support. I do understand how difficult it can be in a busy home to find time for homework, but I have seen the huge impact of parents encouraging and supporting their children’s homework on children’s attainment and in this particular year the effect is even more noticeable.

**Homework expectations:**

Thank you to all parents who have encouraged their child to complete all of their homework and hand it in on time, completing the logs provided. Children who have completed homework to a high standard last term have really benefited from the extension and consolidation it provides. From January, Year 6 children will no longer be given ‘grid’ homework but will have maths and comprehension tasks to be completed in in addition to daily reading and spelling practice.

Parent support logs will be given each week to allow parents to confirm that children have completed home reading and spelling practice and that comprehension and maths homework has been checked or discussed (and any problems they have encountered with this work).

Children who do not hand in their homework on time *along with completed parent support logs* will be asked to complete work during lunchtime periods.

Your child will receive homework on a Thursday and will be expected to hand it in on Tuesday.

**Spelling:**

This term Year 6 will be working as a class daily on learning their spellings for the week, and after assessment they will have individual spelling lists to learn during these sessions. These should be practiced at home daily (5 minutes is ample). After a week’s practice (home and school) the children should expect to get full marks in their weekly test.

**Reading:**

It is expected that children find 20 minutes four to five times a week to read independently and with an adult at home. Most children will require some encouragement to do this, and it is incredibly important however well they can read. Reading is a major part of the Year 6 homework requirement and I ask all parents to support this.

**Comprehension:**

While children in Year 6 are very able in word reading, I am concerned that reading comprehension may be preventing them from reaching their full potential. The ability to fully understand the text that they are reading will help a child across all subjects. This is why it is so important to continue to read *with* your child, so that you are able to ask questions that can develop their understanding of the text.

Children will be given comprehension exercises for homework each week. These can be completed independently but should be checked and discussed with an adult before being submitted.

**Maths:**

Children will be given maths exercises which reflect either their learning throughout the week or revision of past learning. It may be that your child needs adult support in their task or is confident to complete their homework independently, but again I would ask that answers are always checked and misconceptions discussed and reported to me so that I can help your child at school (Please don’t worry if you get stuck too; maths in Year 6 can be tricky for anyone!).

I know that this is going to continue to be an excellent year for all of the children, who are keen to learn and achieve their best. You are always welcome to pop into the classroom after school with your child if you would like to see what they have been doing in school or would like to discuss anything with me.

Mrs Wright

Year 6 teacher