

27 January 2017

Dear parents/carers and pupils in Year 6,

The Year 6 team have now completed, marked and analysed the reading and mathematics assessments. This analysis allows us to know exactly what each pupil can already do and what they need to learn to do. This information then informs us when we group the pupils by attainment. Just over half of the pupils in Year 6 currently have gaps in their knowledge and understanding of phonics as the basis for successful reading.

On Monday 30th January 2017 the Year 6 teaching team will be reformed. Richard Benstock, deputy headteacher, will lead this team as this is our most important responsibility at this moment in time.

Beth Nial, Kathryn Kane (trainee teacher) and a number of strong members of support staff will be teaching Year 6. This team will be strengthened by Neil Winn (school improvement advisor) after half term and other members of Paradigm Trust's team.

The pupils will be regrouped on Monday and will be taught often in smaller groups. There will be x2 groups of pupils using the well tested, successful 'Literacy and Language' programme and several groups using the 'Fresh Start' programme to enable them to make good progress in both reading and writing. Both of these programmes are used in our other Paradigm academies. We shall introduce a mastery programme in mathematics called 'Maths No Problem' which enables pupils to a) get the correct answer and b) to understand how they did so. We have ordered high quality books for shared reading which ensures that every pupil receives guided teaching, from the teacher, every day of the week. These texts will be the stimulus for extended writing and we shall teach English, grammar punctuation and spelling alongside handwriting every day. These books will also cover other areas of the national curriculum.

Homework will be set regularly and pupils who do not complete it will be expected to do so during their break times. Revision guides will be distributed/sold in the near future. Additional learning sessions – before school, after school, Saturday morning and during Spring break will be organised over time.



The timetable will be as follows:

09.00 -09.15	Morning registration and test practice
09.15-10.15	Mathematics
10.15-10.30	Break
10.30-11.30	English via Literacy and Language or Fresh Start
11:30-12.30	Shared reading, English, grammar, punctuation and spelling and handwriting
12.30-13.15	Lunch
13.30-15.15	Extended writing throughout the curriculum

Please note that Year 6 pupils will be swimming on Thursday 2nd February 2017 (pm). This will be their last swimming session until further notice. The bought in physical activities of sport, archery, fencing and bush craft activities will continue on Friday afternoons.

I have never met a parent/carer who does not want their child/ren to achieve the very best that s/he can, especially in public tests. This is exactly what we wish to achieve and by working together I am confident that this is the case. Strong results will ensure that your child/ren enter secondary school with a 'flying start'.

If you have any questions or comments you are warmly invited to attend one of the following meetings:

- Tuesday 31st January 2017 at 9.10am/2.45pm in the Year 6 classroom block or
- 5pm (please bring your child/ren with you) via the front entrance.

Yours faithfully

Amanda Phillips Principal and Richard Benstock deputy headteacher