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5th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Christmas break. We have a very busy term ahead of us!

Our topics this term are Hola Mexico and Blood Heart. In Hola Mexico, the children will have a brief introduction to The Mayans and explore the geography of Central America. Blood Heart focuses on the human circulatory system and heart health, developing the children's knowledge about the workings of the heart. In addition, we will spend some more time looking at internet safety, cyberbullying and how we treat each other online - these things are especially relevant in today's society. The following quote from the Head of Education of CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) emphasises how important it is to educate ourselves and our children to stay safe online: *"Today's children are growing up online and make little distinction between life online and off. Their use of online games, apps and services plays a crucial role in the development of their identities, friendships, relationships, passions and aspirations. It is essential that we respond by offering them high-quality education based on the best available evidence."*

In secondary school, your child will be responsible for their belongings (such as pens, pencils, glue sticks, etc.) as well as handing homework in on time. It is important to get into good habits now to enable them to make a smooth transition to their next school. The children have already made a good start on this - well done! Please make sure that your child's equipment is named, since a lot of children have identical items.

Mrs Bemand will continue to take the children for sport on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons. All stud earrings and watches (including FitBits) must be removed for PE sessions.

Home learning will continue to be given out on a Thursday to be returned no later than the following Tuesday. Please encourage your child to begin their home learning sooner, rather than later, and not to leave it until the last minute - again, good habits learned for the next phase of their education.

On Thursday 11th January, there will be an important SATs meeting in Y6 at 3:10pm for Year 6 parents, where you will be able to look at previous years' test papers and understand the challenges facing your children. If you have difficulty making this meeting, please let me know as I can run a second meeting at 5pm that day, if needed.

There will be more of an emphasis on testing this term but the whole school is involved in tests in reading, mathematics, grammar, punctuation and spelling on a regular basis - so we are not alone! Year 6 have demonstrated a very positive attitude so far and the children are eager to calculate their scaled scores and chart their progress month by month. Please remind them that they are comparing their own progress **ONLY** and not comparing themselves with others in the class!

Mrs Tracey Jones
Year 6 Teacher



'As each one does their part, we grow in love'
Ephesians 4 vs.16

