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Dear parents,

Welcome back to school after what we hope has been an enjoyable Christmas break. May we wish you all a Happy New Year and a special thank you for the many lovely gifts we received from the children at the end of term. We had a very busy and successful autumn term and we are sure the children will continue to put in the same effort and enthusiasm this term.

In Year 6 we continue to follow National Curriculum 2014. In literacy, we will be studying "Goodnight Mr Tom" by Michelle Magorian, which links with our continuing topic of "Britain at War". We will be focussing on narrative writing, including the use of speech to move the story on and communicate character, as well as other incidental writing. We will also look at the picture book "Rose Blanche" by Roberto Innocenti which is linked to the theme of the holocaust which will be part of our work on WW2. After half term, we will move onto the classic text "The Railway Children", and will produce writing linked to this text in a range of genre.

Our initial focus in grammar and punctuation will be on speech punctuation and layout as well as on-going revision of word classes and punctuation. We will be particularly looking at the use of colons and semi-colons. We will be sending home grammar and punctuation challenges on a weekly basis this term. They will be given out on a Tuesday, to be returned on the following Monday. The children will also bring home a spelling activity on Tuesdays. These spelling patterns will be incorporated into a spelling test on the following Monday. They will be set new individual targets for learning to spell more words from the Y5/6 spelling lists, following next week's test.

The children will be reading regularly in school and should be encouraged to do so at home too. There will be specific reading homework linked to "Goodnight Mr Tom." Please continue to support your child with their reading, particularly through discussion, even though many are now generally competent readers. In school, we will be focussing on written comprehension skills as we lead into preparation for the SATs.

In numeracy we will be covering many key areas, including calculations involving fractions, decimals and percentages, ratio and proportion, measuring and data handling. Reasoning and problem solving will be incorporated into each area. We will also be doing regular arithmetic and times table challenge activities in class. Maths homework tasks will continue to be set weekly on "Mathletics" (on Thursdays), with paper-based activities being set on occasions, when this is more appropriate.

In science we will be discovering more about forces, including levers and pulleys. We will then move on to learn about electricity. We will do a mini-topic about the continent of South America, which will involve a research/project homework (more details to follow). DT and artwork will link with our topics and literacy.

In R.E. we will be looking at links between the Eucharist and Passover then the question "Who is Jesus?" in the run-up to Easter. As swimming has now finished, we will be doing P.E. on Mondays and Thursdays. Please make sure your child has the appropriate kit in school on these days. Some P.E. lessons will be outdoors as we prepare for sports tournaments later in the term, so please ensure your child has tracksuit bottoms and a top in school at all times.

We will be holding our next Parents' Afternoon/Evening just before the half term break. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions in the meantime. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S. Huddleston and Mrs J. Redmayne

