

*Tuesday 5th September 2017*

*Dear Parents/Carers,*

*Welcome to the new term and Razorbill Class!*

*Year six is a fantastic year where children get to embrace the opportunities and responsibilities which accompany the status of being the oldest in the school! I know how excited they are to get going and start their final year at Woolacombe school. We have plenty planned which will inspire and excite us in our learning journey together.*

*The parent meeting tomorrow is one opportunity to talk but please feel free to pop into the morning sessions as school starts or arrange a time after school if you need to speak with me. I am always happy to talk with you; there is no matter too small. Please email me at [d.polak@swsf.org](mailto:d.polak@swsf.org) if you can't get hold of me in school.*

*As you may know already, this year I start as the Deputy Head Teacher. My priority is as a class teacher to my wonderful new class and I will be in class teaching maths and English on the vast majority of mornings. When I am out of class in the afternoon, a specialist teacher will cover me. If I'm out in the morning, which will be rare, the teacher covering me will be Mr Pleasance.*

*This term we will be exploring the far-reaching impacts of some of the greatest conflicts in British history, beginning with World War Two. Our plan is to analyse the cost of the war, both monetarily and spiritually. We will explore this topic looking at the poetry written at the time and the letters written by soldiers to their families. We will also analyse the finances of war, how rationing saved the war effort and how much war costs- both in 1945 and today. We want to see where war could have been avoided and discuss when it seems inevitable. Our class novel 'Friend or Foe' is based in Devon, and discusses the issues that evacuees experienced when disconnected from their homes.*

### ***Literacy***

*This is an incredibly important time to read. I want every member of Razorbill Class to read a lot and love reading. We will work together to find books which inspire, interest and inform. Please continue to read with your child daily. Of course you can write in their home school diary, but in year six they can do so as well! If they record the book, number of pages and any comments about what was discussed, it will help me support their reading in school.*

*Of course, the 'Reading Raffle' will continue with the weekly opportunity to be awarded with a new book!*

*Our writing will begin with a focus on poetry looking at the poetry of the Second World War era and seeking to capture the mood and style of some of the great poets at the time. We will look at how poetry became an outlet for soldiers to share the real experience of war. This will link with when we look at the great poets of the First World War: Owen, Sassoon and Brooke.*

### **Mathematics**

*Our Mathematics will focus on efficiency and explanation in this first term. We'll be looking at the most effective methods to make sure we are carefully considering our understanding of number. We will be using thought bubbles to explain our thinking and to show a great sense of mastery in our approach. We'll start with multiplicative reasoning and will be working with some absolutely huge numbers and concepts!*

*Please work on timetables- knowing them back to front, upside down and inside out. Our daily home learning will continue to support the work in class and the pre-teach sessions will start shortly, after the parent meetings. Those who were a part of last year's pre-teach project made monumental progress as a result.*

*The maths daily home learning will continue as we've had fantastic success with it. There is a five minute rule- if your child cannot solve the calculation in five minutes, they need to stop and I'll cover it the next day. The purpose is to practise a skill, not learn a new one.*

*P.E. will continue to be on both Wednesday and Friday each week. To ensure that we get the maximum enjoyment and learning from our physical activity, can you ensure that the child has all the correct P.E. kit for each session with their kits in class **every Monday**.*

*I will regularly update the Class 6 webpage with curriculum updates, weekly learning foci, termly spelling words and home learning task instructions. However, please remember to visit the school website, [www.woolacombe.devon.sch.uk](http://www.woolacombe.devon.sch.uk) for workshops and events, such as reading and grammar workshops.*

*I look forward to working with you all!*

**Dan Polak**

**Year 6 Class Teacher**

