



Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some special family time. As our Year 6 children begin this busy and important term, may we move forward together with **faith** in their abilities, **hope** for all they will achieve, and **love** that supports and encourages them every step of the way.

Our third term at a glance involves lots of exciting learning linked to our topic '*On Top of the World*'. In Science, we will be exploring light and carrying out a range of experiments that encourage the children to show **resilience** as they test ideas, refine their thinking, and learn from mistakes.

During our REACH Friday sessions, our focus on equality and fairness will support the children in developing **empathy**, particularly as they take part in a Mock Trial scenario where they will step into different viewpoints and consider the experiences of others. The event they will attend alongside this will help deepen their understanding of justice and fairness in real-life contexts.

In Music Technology, the class will be working with a teacher from *The Music Works* using iPads. This hands-on experience is designed to build their **confidence** as they create, compose, and perform using new tools. It will also foster **aspiration**, encouraging them to explore new skills and discover what they are capable of achieving through creativity.

Across all of these opportunities, we will continue to set **high expectations**, ensuring every child is challenged, supported, and inspired to flourish both academically and personally.

Reading Gives You Wings...

I am really looking forward to hearing about any books the children may have received over Christmas, and they are very welcome to bring them into school to read. As always, we are continuing our strong focus on reading. This is especially important in Year 6, as regular reading helps prepare the children for the expectations of secondary school as well as the SATs in May.

We would love every child to read **five times a week** to an adult at home, alongside reading independently—for example, before bed. Please record this in their yellow reading diaries, which I check closely every Friday. Children who meet this expectation will earn a stamp towards their reading awards. This term, we will be continuing to read the class novel ***Orphans of the Tide* by Struan Murray**.

Blog

Be sure to take a look at our class blog on the school website for regular updates on all the exciting learning taking place in Year 6—you'll also find plenty of photos that capture what we've been up to! All of the Christmas pictures are available there too, so do have a browse and enjoy seeing the children's festive fun come to life.

Homework

Please encourage your children to do as much as possible as I am setting tasks to prepare them for the demands of Secondary School and also to sharpen their knowledge for SATS (happening in May). Our homework will be set on a Friday (online on Teams) and this will include:

Spellings - these will need to be practised at home ready for a test every Thursday.

Maths or English work. This all needs to be completed and handed back in on TEAMS by the following Wednesday.

SPaG - children will be set this on SPAG.com (an online platform). You took home log on letters after parents evening to access this. **Please encourage your child to access this as it enables me to focus in on gaps in their knowledge.**

General Reminders...

Water bottles

Children should be bringing a water bottle in to school every day. They are able to keep these on their table (just Year 6) to ensure that they are drinking throughout the day. Please make sure your child's bottle is named.

Uniform

A reminder that we are still in Winter uniform which includes **grey tights.**

PE and Outdoor Learning

PE will take place on a Tuesday and Friday afternoon, please ensure children wear their uniform to school. This includes trainers, a house colour top and **navy** shorts/joggers.

Outdoor Learning will not take place this term, but they need wellies/old shoes in school as they need them to go on the field at break times and lunch times.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, concerns, or would simply like a chat. I am usually available after school on the playground, or you can contact me via email (**FAO Mrs Knight**) through the school office: admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With warm regards,

Mrs Knight

Year 6 Teacher - **St Martin's Class**