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Dear Parents/Guardians

My intention was to write at the end of the spring term but time ran away once we returned from France and the holiday time arrived all too soon! I hope you have enjoyed a restful break with your children whilst also supporting them a little with the homework tasks set. I have certainly enjoyed a good rest, attempted some more decorating and been busy helping one of my own children with revision for GCSE's - you will be relieved to know "mymaths" reaches these dizzy heights too! But now I return to school ready to attack SAT's with gusto and enjoy teaching your children in their final term at Midhurst Primary.

Just to recap though, here is a list of fantastic achievements during the Spring term:

- Completed climbing programme which all children opted into and enjoyed.
 - BIG SING event at MRC - a great success, fantastic fun and hopefully will be repeated.
 - Cross country event where many Y6 children ran well, supported each other and represented MPS with pride. Well done to Josh who won the boys race with apparent ease!
 - Whole class attended the tag rugby festival - a fantastically well run event with hoards of children all participating in tag rugby.
 - Moodle Poetry day - we learnt about Performance Poetry with all the other Year 6's across the Rother Valley.
 - Netballers attended a session voluntarily at MRC to help the older students with their sports leaders' award.
 - Performed "Scaredy Squirrel" as part of a whole school assembly. This was great fun and involved a lot of courage, collaboration and co-operation by the entire class.
 - Completed the PSHE unit of work on Sex Education without embarrassment and with a level of maturity which you should be proud of.
 - Organised and ran the fundraising day for Comic Relief - all children were involved and raised an incredible total.
 - School Council members interviewed prospective teachers for the Year 4 teaching post, while other members of the class were taught by them. Your children provided excellent feedback from both which were used by the interviewing panel.
 - WENT TO FRANCE!! This was just brilliant! They loved it, I loved it.....it was fab!
- Photos to follow!

- Netballers attended a very cold netball festival at MRC Easebourne site. Two teams got through to the finals for their groups and one team beat Stedham to win their group!

All these events, experiences and achievements are on top of your children's day to day learning, where progress is being made in leaps and bounds! Great stuff!

SO what to expect this term....

The next 2 weeks (2 days & 4 days!) running up to SAT's will largely be based around revision. This will be done using past papers, marking these together and learning from each other, making "Top Tips" posters to aid memory and using BBC revisewise and other ICT programs to personalise revision. These sessions will mostly be done in Maths and Literacy lessons with other subjects such as PE, Art, Science & PSHE providing some variety for us all.

After that we will return to normal lessons based on a topic which I intend to discuss with the children over the next few days. This term is always full of extra commitments and below I have listed important dates for your diaries that I know of so far...

Tuesday 3rd May - Class photos

Monday 9th May - SAT's week (timetable to follow) & Cricket Club begins

Tuesday 17th May - Cricket tournament (few children involved)

Thursday 19th May - Poetry evening at Harting school for winning poets

Thursday 26th May - Football tournament at Stedham (few children involved)

Poetry presentation evening at MRC for winning poets.

Friday 27th May - Break up for half term

Monday June 6th - INSET DAY school closed

Friday 17th June - Year 6 help with the summer fair 3pm onwards - this event was a great success last year and it is helpful if your children can stay late after school.

Wednesday 29th June - SPORTS DAY at 1pm - support always welcome

Friday 1st July - Rounders tournament at Harting (few children involved)

Tuesday 5th July - MPS Open Evening 6 - 8 pm everyone welcome

Wednesday 6th July - Y6 transition day to Midhurst Rother College

Friday 1st July - Reports to parents - hopefully to include SAT's results

Wednesday 13th July - Stoolball festival (hope all children to be involved)

Monday 18th July - Year 6 Leavers Service to be held at Midhurst Parish Church at 2pm - all welcome to attend.

Friday 22nd July - Last day at MPS for Year 6 ☺

If all goes well and my plans pay off there will be a surprise event for the whole class towards the end of the term...no dates as yet but WATCH THIS SPACE!

I know this is a lot of information in one letter but you may also like to know that Year 6 will be welcoming a student teacher this term. Mr Andrew Taylor is in his final year at Winchester University and will be coming to Midhurst Primary to complete his

final teaching practice. He demonstrates a keen interest in PE, Modern Foreign Languages and DT and comes with excellent references from his previous placements. I will, of course, be planning with Mr Taylor, observing and overseeing the work in the classroom and I am sure you will join me in supporting him throughout the term. BUT just in case you wonder where poor old Mrs Clarke is.....it IS true they HAVE swapped me for a younger model!

Last thing now - I promise - can I remind you and your children that I have removed all equipment this term from the classroom, in terms of pens, pencils etc. Whilst I have kept equipment available in the classroom, many children have come to use it and rely on it, despite my constant bid to encourage them to provide their own. SO this term I have removed them all - you have been warned! This is just an attempt to help them survive Year 7 when they will not only be expected to have their own pencil cases but also get used to carrying them from room to room. At least we can acclimatise to the first part of this regime by having the pencil case in the first place. Your support in this attempt to encourage your children to become more organised and independent would be much appreciated.

Phew - I promise that's it now!

What a busy and exciting term for us all, there is still so much left to learn and do! My main aim is to encourage your children to leave MPS confident, happy and ready to greet the changes that lie ahead.

Please do not hesitate to come in and see me at any time if you have any concerns or worries regarding your children and school. I am available every morning except Monday and every afternoon except Tuesday.

Thanking you, as always, for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Sally Clarke