11th September 2022

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

Welcome back! Despite the sad events nationally, it has been a joyful week in terms of children returning to school. I have been extremely impressed with how your children have entered Year 6 dressed smartly and with a positive attitude to learning and responsibility. I want to welcome our two new pupils to the class and their families – the children have been working hard to make them feel welcome this week. I do hope they are settling in well and have been able to reflect positively this weekend on the new start they have made.

The children have already been busy thinking about the extra roles and responsibilities of Year 6 that they would like to take on. We have assigned such roles as: worship and reading ambassadors and ICT and guinea pig monitors in class already, however, house captains, school councillors and young governor roles will be decided this coming week. Good luck to all students performing speeches on Monday morning to campaign for these roles.

Our cross-curricular topic this half term is ‘Hola Mexico!’. We are going to explore this unique country, from its towering temples to its fun-packed festivals, placing a particular focus on the history of the ancient Maya civilisation. We are hoping to end the topic with a Day of the Dead party where we will dance to Mariachi music and try Mexican foods! If you have any photographs, books or artefacts linked to this topic that you would be happy to share we would be very grateful.

**Staff**This year, the children will be taught by myself Monday to Thursday and by Mrs Dike on Fridays. Mrs Irvine and Mrs Andrews will be our wonderful TAs this year helping us in class and running interventions.

**PE**  
This half term our PE session will take place on a **Monday** afternoon. We are very fortunate to be having a sports coach come into school to teach us Tag Rugby. Please make sure that children have suitable school PE kit and that hair is also tied back and earrings are either removed or, if they cannot be removed, covered with tape.

**Reading**  
Please continue to listen to your child read as often as you can, encouraging them to experience a broad range of texts such as: information books, poetry, newspapers, magazines and online information as well as stories. Regularly listening to your child read will not only help develop their reading and comprehension skills but also their vocabulary and writing across the curriculum. Children should be reading out loud **at least three times a week** and this should be recorded in their reading record.

**Homework**This term, children will be given their homework on a Monday and it will need to be returned the following Monday. Their homework will consist of spellings to learn, which will be tested on Monday mornings and a Maths and English activity. I am keen to keep a balance between not overloading the children, but also gradually preparing them for their SATS exams in May and the increased demands of Year 7 next year.

I feel privileged to be taking your children through their learning journey this important year and I am sincerely looking forward to getting to know them and yourselves.

If you have any questions, concerns or queries please feel free to reach out to me.

Yours Sincerely,  
  
Mrs Brown

Mrs Brown and all the Foxes Class Team.