

12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new school year and for a few of the children their final year at Simmondley School!

Topics this year include: 'How do volcanoes affect the lives of people?' for geography, 'The Vikings' for history, 'Inheritance and Evolution' in science and 'Sculpture' in art. We have arranged a trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park for 25<sup>th</sup> September (letter to follow).

### Reading

Your help in maintaining your child's reading record has been essential throughout the junior years. At this level, where most children have achieved reading fluency, it is so important to develop children's understanding and appreciation of what they read. Please help your children understand any new vocabulary they come across. In a recent ten minute reading session in class we collected over one hundred words that the children were not familiar with. In order to attain the 'expected level' for reading, the children must be able to make inferences about characters and situations, so questioning them about what they have read helps them "read between the lines" - this is especially valuable. It is really important that they have reading stamina and can sustain their reading over longer periods of time.

### HOMEWORK -

Maths - Set on a Friday - to be handed in on Monday/Tuesday. Homework will usually be set from a workbook every week.

### Times tables

It is so important that all the children have instant recall of times tables facts. This is an end of Year 4 expectation. Please spend lots of short sessions until your child can do this. Tables are tested weekly. If your child struggles with this, an excellent resource is the app 'Quick Math,' where you write answers on screen with your finger.

English is also set on a Friday to be returned by Tuesday. Some weeks this will be a comprehension exercise from a work book and other weeks' homework will involve writing sentences on a particular focus.

### Spellings

Spellings are taken home on a Monday for a test the following Monday. Children will be given a small spelling book. Words to be learned will be recorded at the front of the book and tests will be completed at the back of the book so you can see how your child has done. Please support your child in learning their spellings. Perhaps dictate a sentence with the spelling in it, to check complete understanding.

PE/GAMES - for the first half term we have indoor PE on a Monday and games, with a sports coach, on a Thursday. So games kits need to be in on Thursdays and taken home at the end of the day. We will be out in all weathers. Indoor PE kit should be left in school at all times.

SATs (Year 6)- For your information SATs are during the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any concerns please ring or pop in to see me,

Claire Constantine