



July 2020

Dear Year 6 parents,

Moving up to Year 7

It's such a shame that, as Literacy and Numeracy Co-ordinators, we have been unable to enjoy the privilege of working with all of your children during a transition week at Monmouth Comprehensive School this year. I'm sure they are all becoming very excited for this next step in their school careers. We are both very much looking forward to being a part of their journey next year.

The summer holiday is fast approaching and I know for many of us it means finding ways to keep our children stimulated and curious. In September, your child will start a journey on the road to developing and perfecting their oracy, reading, writing and numeracy skills and there are many things that you could do to help support them over the summer weeks at home.

Oracy

Discussion is an essential process that enables us to marshal, organise and structure our thoughts. Over the coming weeks, taking the opportunity to engage your child in talk about complex topics will be enormously beneficial.

Reading

Additionally, we would always recommend a varied diet of reading. As well as good quality newspapers, your child should be exposed to good quality fiction in order to heighten his or her awareness of relevant and demanding issues. Three novels that are suitable for your child are:

- *Holes*, Louis Sachar
- *Private Peaceful*, Michael Morpurgo
- *Wonder*, R.J Palacio

A wider reading list can also be found on our school website under transition.

Here is a link to the vocabulary that should be familiar to all learners by the end of Year 9 <https://uws.n-yorks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/KS3-Spelling-Lists.pdf>; it is a substantial list and we would suggest you help guide your child to the words and sections which are most relevant to his or her needs.

Writing

Of course, writing should not be neglected! If there are opportunities for writing – be it postcards, emails or shopping lists – please encourage the practice of these vital skills. There is a strong focus on accuracy in writing in our mark schemes across Key Stage 3 in preparation for the GCSE tasks, therefore any activities that encourage literacy accuracy would be highly beneficial.



The five key areas to focus on to ensure beginning Year 7 with the essentials mastered would be:

- Capital letters and full stops
- Paragraphing
- Comma usage
- Homophones
- Sentence types

Worksheets and practise tasks can be found on the school website under transition.

Numeracy

Numeracy, like literacy, is key for children to develop and make sound decisions in all areas of life. Being able to quantify and measure their environment in different ways will help them to make wiser decisions about the kind of actions to take. Whilst it may sound obvious, confident and fluent knowledge of all times tables is an important skill that underpins mathematical concepts and supports numeracy development across many subjects – not just Maths!

If you are able to encourage your child to regularly recite their times tables in full throughout the summer, this will make such a big difference to their learning at MCS from September. Reciting the full times table rather than just listing the answers will really support faster recall and improved mental arithmetic skills. You'll find a times tables chart in the transition section of our school website.

With your permission, there are also many free Times Table Apps available that your child could download and use to make the process exciting and interactive.

If your child is up for a challenge this summer, you'll also find five weekly maths activities in the transition section of our school website. Don't worry the answers are provided so you can check your child's answers.

What to expect in Year 7

Your child will begin Year 7 exploring how the English Language has developed over time through exploring a range of texts from Beowulf to Harry Potter! Spelling tests are a regular feature across KS3 and will be set alongside homework in order to solidify knowledge and skills gained during lessons.

In Mathematics, your child will focus on many familiar topics deepening their conceptual understanding and increasing their fluency of key numeracy skills.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to working with you and your child throughout Key Stage 3. Have a wonderful holiday with your child and we hope you find the suggestions we have made useful.

Best wishes,

Kathryn Bailey (Whole School Literacy Co-ordinator)
Keith Harris (Whole School Numeracy Co-ordinator)