Hello 5R!

It's me again! (Mrs Russell)

This is supposed to be a letter from your **new** class teacher to introduce them self to you ahead of September - but here I am writing the letter! How lucky am I that I get to be your class teacher again?! **I am going to be moving up to Year 6 with you all** and we are going back into my old classroom where we will be joined by Mrs Feather and Mrs Marsden: **I can't wait!**

I am really glad that we are going to be able to pick up where we left off before this pandemic and that I get the privilege of spending your final year at Blakehill with you all! I felt robbed of our time in Year 5 together and have missed you all since the schools closed, so I am looking forward to seeing you all together in September! I felt like we had only just firmly settled into a way of working together and I was disappointed that we didn't get to develop the relationship we had all established so I am sure we are going to have a fantastic year together!

Year 6 is such a big year for you all and I am so happy that I will be the one to support you and guide you in preparation for your transition to secondary school. We will cover some really exciting topics together and explore some fantastic books as part of our English curriculum. I can't wait to have that time to sit with you all at the end of the day and read to you again - especially with the books we will be looking at in Year 6 as they are some of my favourite stories with some great cliff hangers in ( I know how much you all love a cliff hanger at the end of a chapter!)

We have the opportunity in Year 6 to go on some fantastic educational visits to support our curriculum areas. From exploring the depths of the Amazon rainforest at Tropical world, to being transported back to the times of the Vikings at Danelaw, you will be given the chance to have hands on learning experiences to support and enhance the learning opportunities given to you in school. We are keeping everything crossed that our Year 6 residential will be able to go ahead next year and that you will be able to access all of the fantastic activities at Robin Wood.

In Year 6 you will have more time mixed with the other class and will have the chance to work with more members of staff. Year 6 has a real "**team**" feeling to it - from the staff working very closely with each other to the children working in mixed groups from both classes.

Mr Sidebottom and Mrs Bedell will be teaching in the other Year 6 class and Mrs Hall and Mrs Keighley will also be teaching small groups for Maths and Reading. By giving you the opportunity to move to different classes and work with different teachers, we are able to provide you with a small snippet of what life will be like in secondary school. I would like to reassure you, that as a team, we will do everything in our power to ensure that you are all given lots of support to help close any gaps in learning that there may be due to the unfortunate circumstances of school closures and make the progress needed to prepare you for your end of Key Stage 2 assessments and life after Blakehill.

We all understand that things can't go straight back to "business as usual" at school and I would like to reassure you all that there will be lots of opportunities for us to spend time talking and completing activities to allow you to settle back into life at school. The most important thing to the staff in Year 6 is that you feel happy and safe in school and we will do our upmost to ensure this happens.

Included as an attachment alongside this letter you will find some home learning booklets to support your transition from Year 5 into Year 6. Please take some time over the summer to have a go at the activities included in these booklets so that you are ready and raring to go in September with a Year 6 frame of mind.

I really hope you are as excited as I am for September to arrive and I can't wait to see you all sat together once again. Please do not hesitate to contact me through e-schools or via the school office if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything ahead of the start of Year 6.

Many thanks

Mrs Russell