Welcome back to the start of the year, we hope that you have all had a restful and fun filled summer break. For some children the start of the school year can be a tricky time, so we hope that over the next few days children and families will ease into routines with as little worry as possible, however, the most important thing is that your child is happy. If for ANY reason, you have queries or concerns, please do come and see Mrs Watkins. Pop into the classroom whenever is convenient, or if you prefer, you can email [elle.watkins@blackwater.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:elle.watkins@blackwater.cornwall.sch.uk)

This year whether your child is in year 5 or year 6, we will be encouraging children to become independent, resilient and confident in their outlook. This is to ready them for their next steps in education and life as a whole.

Children are expected and encouraged to be independent and responsible for themselves. They will all know when they need different equipment during the week and need to be able to bring them in and look after things themselves. They should complete homework and reading every week unless there is an exceptional reason for this. In line with whole school rules, children are expected to be kind, respectful and work to look after our whole school community. As the eldest children in the school, they should be aware of their role as role models for the younger children and act accordingly. We encourage and celebrate helpful and happy behavior in class and across the school. Following our ethos of RAISE children are celebrated weekly in assembly and in whole school newsletters.

Please make sure ALL uniform, P.E. kit and lunch boxes are clearly named. We will always do our best to ensure equipment is not lost, however, if it isn’t named it can be a real challenge to reunite lost property. Children will be outdoors in all weathers, even our wonderful Cornish rain, if your child has a pair of wellies then it would be a good idea to send them in and you are welcome to keep a pair at school. We have a supply of wet weather gear, but children are welcome to bring their own if they are particularly fashion conscious! PE kits should remain in school all week, please take them for washing at weekends or holidays. This is so that we are able to take advantage of good weather and have PE sessions whenever needed. **For the first half term PE sessions will be on a THURSDAY AFTERNOON and kits are essential.**

Home learning is an important part of school life. Studies have shown that the single most important thing you can do to help your child succeed both academically and socially, is to read with them every day. Children in year 5 and 6, are sometimes fluent readers and comfortable reading on their own. If you can encourage and ensure that this happens for 20 minutes a day, it will benefit their progress and outlook hugely. Please ask them about the books, magazines or comics that they choose to read as it really helps with comprehension and learning skills. Their Viper book marks can also help with this – please ask your child what these are.

Alongside reading, children will have weekly spellings, following the look, cover, check approach. New lists will be given out every Thursday and tested the following Thursday. When parental consent forms are returned children will also have access to online spelling work and games, matched to their spelling stage each week.  On Fridays children will also receive maths homework to consolidate weekly learning in class.  We will also use the class page on our website to update spellings, home learning and information. Spare copies of spellings and letters will be above the coat pegs on our information board.