

Dear Parents & Children of Year 5,

A huge welcome back to school after what I hope has been a fantastic break. I hope you all had a wonderful rest and are ready for the challenges of Year 5. The Year 5 team include: Mrs Kelly, Mrs Snow, Mrs Dyer, Mr Simmons and myself. We are looking forward to getting to know your children and getting started with the wonderful topics this year, which I know the children will enjoy. They have already told us which areas they would like to improve in this year and I will do my very best to ensure that they achieve their goals and continue to shine!

Widening children's learning

This is an important year for Class 5 and any work you can do at home to supplement the children's learning at school will be enormously helpful. Please use the curriculum guide to help you understand the exciting experiences your child is telling you about after school.

Curriculum Guide

English

In English we will be studying texts such as: What a Wonderful World, Earth Heroes, Secret Friends and The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse along with a range of picture books, poems and music to inspire the children's writing. The children will experience a range of stimuli to write in a variety of styles and genres, using more complex sentence structures, increasingly advanced vocabulary and punctuation. It is still vitally important that children keep up the reading and learning of their spellings, to complement their writing.

Reading still remains a huge priority in Year 5. The children **must** read daily and I will hear everyone at least once a week (any offers of help would be gratefully appreciated!). Please ensure you do the same as the children love reading to someone else. Spellings will be learned weekly as normal. The children are given them on a Monday and they have a series of activities that assist their understanding and use of the new words. The tasks must all be completed by Sunday and handed in weekly. The spelling test is first thing on Monday morning!

Maths

In Mathematics, we have lots of new concepts to learn and explore within the new curriculum for mathematics. Place value up to and including millions, addition, subtraction rounding, negative numbers, multiplication, division, factors, prime numbers as well as all four written methods. This means that the children's number work needs to be strong, so plenty of help at home learning their tables, doubling and halving numbers up to 1000, multiply and divide by 10 and 100 would be a great help.

Science

Science is fascinating. Our topic is Forces and lots of investigative work is involved. We look closely at how PUSH and PULL forces have an affect us and other objects. We will explore a range of practical activities to develop the children's understanding further.

Geography

In Geography we will explore recycling and waste. We will learn about the influence of waste on our local area through field work and compare this to waste in other places. We will learn about different types of waste and what happens to it, including recycling. We will learn about the impact of waste and recycling on different biomes.

Design Technology

In Design Technology we will learn how to make a wind turbine that generates power using recycled materials. We will learn from the inspirational story of William Kamkwama, who made wind turbines in Malawi as a child, and consider

the importance of sustainable design. We will learn how to evaluate materials, develop a prototype and evaluate our products.

Religious Education (RE)

In RE, we will be having lots of discussions and debates to consider different points of views for religion. This is a really interesting unit which the children will love.

French

In French we will carry on with our fun, interactive Tout le Monde programme!

Computing

Computing (previously ICT) will be looking how to use digital cameras to create the perfect shot and then editing the photos on the computer.

Physical Education (PE)

PE on Thursdays and Fridays will be Outdoor PE, so please ensure the children have appropriate clothing for the sessions as we will be going outside come rain or shine. During the sessions, the children will be experiencing the expert teaching from our Sports Coaches this year on a range of different skills. In Term 1, children in Year 5 will also go swimming. They should bring a swimming costume, goggles, towel and swimming hat.

PSHE/SMSC

PSHE and SMSC will be looking at our achievements and expectations for the future, honesty, self-belief, getting along and being a good citizen.

Spelling Contract Details

As mentioned above, children are given their Spelling Contract with their spellings on a Monday. They have a series of tasks to support the learning of their spellings and are required to be completed before a Monday morning. These activities help and support the children's learning of spellings and therefore **must** be completed. The children are given from 8:45am until 9:05am to complete these activities within class; however, if they are not completed within class, they do need to be completed at home. A copy of their spelling contract is in their spelling book.

Homework Details

Each week, the children will be given a piece of homework on a Tuesday morning and they will have one whole week to complete the homework tasks. The homework timetable clearly outlines the homework for Year 5 and the children have a copy in their homework books. The Tuesday homework will alternate between English/Cross Curricular and Maths to consolidate, deepen and extend their learning or revise previously learned topics.

The children are expected to ensure 100% effort, focus and dedication to their homework for every single piece. The children know that as long as they tackle the homework with 100% effort and 'have a go' then I am happy with their achievements. Repeatedly not completing homework or forgetting to hand it in will result in detention at lunchtimes where it will be completed. Conversely children will be rewarded for their efforts with house points and prizes! Please, also as part of their learning in organisation and self-reliance, encourage the children to inform me of problems with homework and I will happily spend time with them again.

Rewards

Good work and behaviour will result in house points, star of the week, top boy and girl, class golden time, table points and weekly certificates in Achievers' assembly. I believe in having a positive approach with the children and will praise them regularly and wherever I can.

Belongings:

Please could I ask for any of the children's belongings to be clearly labelled. This is to avoid any belongings being lost unnecessarily. It is such a shame to see valuable clothing go to waste.

Time to discuss any issues

I would like you as parents to encourage the children, as a reflection of their age, to come and speak to me or other team members, themselves - if they have any concerns. I think it is important for the children to start to think for themselves and work out how to solve problems independently if they can. Obviously, any larger issues can be shared with me directly.

Year 5 is a wonderful year for the children where they really start to become independent in their learning process and take responsibility for their own actions and learning tasks. Please ensure the children are taking responsibility for their homework, belongings and for making sure everything they need for their learning is in school on the days required. We focus a lot on independence in Year 5 and your support with this skill would be wonderful.

As always, your continued encouragement and support is vital to your child's success. If there are any worries or problems please do not hesitate to contact me. I am certain that we will have a fantastic year and I look forward to working with your children during this year!

Kind Regards,

Dr Crowther