



Headteacher: Mrs C Fulstow
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16th September 2020

Welcome to Year 5/6

Welcome back to school. We're delighted your children have settled really well and made an excellent start to the new school year after a long break. This letter outlines our expectations in Year 5/6 and includes key information about weekly routines and procedures. An overview of the curriculum themes for the year is attached.

Start and Finish Times

Thank you so much for your support with the changes we have had to make to our start and finish times.

Already during this second week we have seen great improvements in the way the children are entering and exiting the school. In light of these changes, please be assured that your child is losing no curriculum time. Please see the table below. In order for the requirement to reduce congestion and allow for social distancing we have staggered the start and finish times. We have reduced lunch times to allow for different finish times; Year 5 and 6 now have a 40 minute lunchtime rather than a 60 minute lunch so there is no loss to their curriculum time.

Pre-Covid	Currently
Morning session 1: 8:55-10:15 a.m. Break: 10:15-10:30 a.m. Morning session 2: 10:30-12:00 a.m. (total morning curriculum time 2 hours 50 mins) Lunch: 12:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Afternoon session: 1-3:30 p.m. (total time 2 hours 30mins) Total curriculum hours: 5 hours 20 minutes	Morning session 1: 9:00-10:30 a.m. Break: 10:30-10:45 a.m. Morning session 2: 10:45-12:20 a.m. (total morning curriculum time 3 hours 5mins) Lunch : 12:20 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Afternoon session: 1:00-3:20 p.m. (total time 2hours 20mins) Total curriculum hours: 5 hours 25 minutes

Independence

In upper Key Stage Two we expect your child to become more independent in preparation for the transition to secondary school. Some of the ways we expect them to do this are: packing their own bag for school, completing their own reading record, completing home learning without prompting from adults, along with organising their own time outside of school to complete all these activities.

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PE

Please ensure that your child comes to school in PE kit on Wednesdays and Thursdays (**Miss Johnston and Mrs Woodend's classes**) or Thursdays and Fridays (**Miss Partridge's class**). This arrangement may be reviewed in the coming weeks, any changes will be communicated to your child and via Class Dojo.

Home Learning

Home Learning is an important element of the partnership between teachers and parents in Year 5/6 as it supports learning in school, prepares them for examinations and ensures your child is ready for the transition to secondary school. The children will photograph their times table test, times table home learning and spelling test and then upload these to their Dojo portfolio every Friday.

In the Autumn Term, home learning will include:

Maths	Reading	Spelling
Doodle Maths <ul style="list-style-type: none">Daily (5mins for a 7 day streak) Doodle Tables/TT Rockstars <ul style="list-style-type: none">Used at least 3 times a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At least four times a week, recorded in plannersA weekly reading comprehension task (due Wednesdays)Planners should be signed by a parent or guardian weekly. Planners will be checked weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Will be checked and new spellings sent home on FridaysDaily spelling practice on Spelling ShedChildren could practise spellings using the recommended spelling activities

For **Year 6** in the Spring Term we will introduce some home learning in addition to Doodle Maths, Doodle Tables, reading comprehension, reading and spelling practice. By the Spring Term your child will have a home learning book for maths and English (GPS). Your child will know which pages to complete each week. They will record this information in their planners. This home learning will also be due in on Wednesdays.

Doodlemaths and Spelling Shed will be checked daily by your child's class teacher, insufficient sessions will be completed at break times. Reading comprehension will be due in on Wednesdays, and will be set on Fridays.

Home Reading

We expect Year 5/6 children to read at least 4 times a week at home, at least 1 of these reading sessions should be to an adult. Your child should record the book they have read, the pages and a short summary sentence in their planner. There is an example of how this should look on 'Monday 7th September' in their planner. We ask that planners are signed by a parent or carer at the end of the week. The following week your child's class teacher will sign the planner and check for reading entries, insufficient reading entries will result in reading at break times.

Spelling

We conduct weekly checks of spelling on Fridays, in the form of dictation. Research shows that using and applying newly learnt words in sentences is more effective than simply rote learning a list of words for recall in a test. Every Friday your child will receive new spellings to learn at home. Please use some of the spelling activities and Spelling Shed to help your child to learn and retain their spellings. A copy of the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 spelling lists can be found at the back of your child's planner.

Handwriting

This term in upper Key Stage Two, we are trialling giving all children a handwriting pen, in addition to a pencil. Our expectations of handwriting and presentation remain high, but children will be able to make the choice whether the activity is more suited to writing with pen or pencil and whether they feel they prefer writing in pen or pencil. The national expectation is that handwriting is neat, joined and legible. A copy of the letter formation and handwriting joins can be found at the back of your child's planner.

Walking Home

If you would like your child to walk home on their own please inform school so that we have permission to release them at the end of the day. This only needs to be done once. (Please see email sent 14.9.2020.)

Healthy Living

If your child brings a packed lunch, please keep items to a minimum as the children have limited time to eat their lunch. Please remember we do not allow sweets or fizzy drinks in school.

Your child can bring a healthy snack (fruit or vegetables) to eat at break time. Some popular choices are an apple, some berries, carrot sticks etc.

Allergen information - we are a nut free school and we have children who are anaphylactic so please be considerate of this at all times.

Keep in touch

Please use Class Dojo for quick messages. Email the school office for all other queries, concerns etc. If you would like a meeting in addition to parents' evening, please make an appointment with the office. Please note due to current COVID restrictions it is advisable to have a meeting via Zoom or telephone.

We are very keen to hear if you feel things are going well, or if you have concerns that we can address. Most concerns, if addressed quickly, can be sorted out informally so please do try to talk things through with your child's class teacher. If you feel it would be more helpful to raise concerns with a leader in school, please speak to the Year 5/6 Phase Leader, Miss Johnston, in the first instance.

We look forward to an exciting year, filled with lots of new learning opportunities with your children.

Kind regards,

The Year 5/6 team