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10th September 2019

Welcome to Year 5

Welcome back to school! We hope you all had a lovely summer. We're delighted your children have settled really well and made an excellent start to the new school year. This letter outlines our expectations in Year 5 and includes key information about routines and procedures. An overview of the curriculum themes for the year is attached.

Independence

In upper KS2 we encourage children 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. Children will have all the support and resources they need but they will be expected to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour at all times.

PE

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school with them every day from Monday until Friday. In Year 5 we expect children to dress and undress themselves silently and quickly for PE lessons.

Home Learning

Home Learning is an important element of the partnership between teachers and parents in Year 5 as it supports learning in school, prepares them for examinations and ensures your child is ready for the transition to secondary school.

Home Learning includes:

Maths	Reading	Spelling
<p>Doodle Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily (5 mins for 7 day streak) An extra task set on a Friday by the teacher. <p>Doodle Tables</p> <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 planners. 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 Fridays. Children should practise spellings using the recommended spelling activities.

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Home Reading

We expect Year 5 children to read at least 4 times a week at home, at least one 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 (see Monday 2nd 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 may result in reading at break times.

We monitor reading very closely and keep a record of each book that your child has read. We expect that most children should be reading a minimum of a book a month (age related) and will push children to aim for this target.

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 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 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.

Times tables

We carry out frequent times table checks by way of a times table challenge where children complete times table questions against the clock and compete to get the fastest time or "perfect pink". The element of competition is very motivating and children get to have their name on the gold, silver, bronze or pink star if they win this challenge.

Home Tray

In the classroom there is a "**Home Tray**" this is positioned by the door which contains any recent letters or flyers, a selection of Maths and English consolidation activities that children can take home to complete voluntarily and any items that may have been left/lost by children in class. Children are expected to check this tray for letters etc. if they have been off school and can help themselves to extra homework if they want to.

Additional Information

In addition to the school House Point reward system there is a team point reward within the Year 5 class. Children will be put into teams, choose their own team name and then compete for points and prizes which include: choosing their seat for an afternoon, wearing an accessory to school, having some free time on the ipads or having ice pops one afternoon. This has proved a very simple but effective way to maintain motivation and teamwork.

Seating plans are drawn up using our knowledge of the children (initially gathered from their previous teacher) and their learning preferences. They will more than likely be seated away from friends as class time is learning time and there is plenty of time for chatting at playtime and lunchtime. Seating arrangements will change, usually half termly, to encourage children to mix and work with others. We value your support in encouraging children to work with new people.

Pens will be issued when appropriate once children reach the KS2 expectations for handwriting which includes having **all letters joined**. The expectations are high and must be maintained in order to keep the pen.

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. (Permission letter to follow shortly).

Healthy Living

If your child brings a packed lunch, please could you not include too many treats. We do not allow sweets or fizzy drinks in school.

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 face to face meeting in addition to Parents Evening, please make an appointment with the office. Thursday afternoons and Friday after school are when Miss Smith will most likely to be available i.e. not in meetings or running a club.

We are very keen to hear if you feel things are going well, or if you have any 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 Y5/6 Phase Leader, Miss Johnston, in the first instance.

There are several ways you can give your time in school to help out. We invite you to speak to Miss Smith as to how you can get involved. We always welcome help so please offer your time if you can.

We look forward to an exciting, hardworking year with your children.

Kind regards,

The Year 5/6 team