

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Year 5. Your child is now in what we call 'Upper Keystage Two' (UKS2) and will be accessing milestone 3 of the curriculum in English and Maths. This means that your child is sharing objectives taught across both Year 5 and Year 6. As your child has just entered Year 5, your child will start to access milestone 3 at a basic level and hopefully progress to the advancing stage before reaching an 'in-depth' level at Year 6.

In order to assist us teaching your child it would be helpful if you could listen to your child read every night, even if it is just a page out-loud. Please ask them questions that start with 'Why.....' or 'How.....' e.g. 'Why did Aunt Sally clean the car?' Or, 'How did the Kite reach Cecil's house?' These types of questions involve your child inferring and deducing information of the text, which is a skill that they will widely use throughout their education. We will listen to your child read as much as possible, Mrs. Wilkins the Year 5 Classroom Teaching Assistant will hear your child read along with other volunteer readers. Some children will be heard more than others depending on their needs. When your child has finished their book they will need to consult with Mrs. Wilkins to change it. Most of the topics your child will learn about will be supported by a class text, this is a chance for us to read a book as a whole to support their learning. Alongside this, I will hear your child read in a guided reading group once a week.

In spelling, your child will now be given suggested high frequency words from the 'Year 5 and Year 6' national curriculum. Your child will progress through these words every week. Your child will be given 10 new words to learn every Friday and they will be tested on them from Wednesday the following week. Your child will then be given new words for every correct word they have spelt. Mrs. Wilkins co-ordinates this beautifully, tests your child and gives your child their new spellings. Alongside this, I teach a discrete spelling lesson once a week to teach your child the spellings rules. It is paramount that your child learns their spellings every week. We appreciate that some children find this a difficult task, but we will support them as much as possible with intervention strategies.

You will notice on your child's individual timetable that there is a lesson entitled 'SPaG' this means – spelling, punctuation and grammar. These are all elements of the new curriculum and your child will have discrete lessons on punctuation and grammar most days. It will become quite common for your child to be given some English homework based upon 'SPaG' taught that week. Your child will receive their homework on a Wednesday and it is required to be completed by the following Monday. The homework task will not take any longer than 30 minutes. I will try to set most homework via 'Bug Club' which will require the Internet. If this is a problem for your child, then please let me know and I will give them a paper copy.

All English lessons will be taught through topic work to support their learning. Hopefully this way the children will learn to write a variety of genres to suit the specific theme and become experts before entering Year 6. Please encourage your child to write at home. This could include a letter to their friend, a report about something that interests them, a shopping list, Christmas list etc. It is important that your child writes as much as possible without the use of technology.

Hopefully by Year 5, your child will thoroughly know their timestables. If this isn't the case please, please, please try to support your child with their learning of them. It may be a good idea for your child to listen to them when you are driving to school, or you could have them displayed in your child's bedroom, or you could perhaps read them out sporadically to see if they can recall them. I appreciate that some children find learning their timestables difficult and a lot of it is a memory test, but if your child learns them they will find Maths easier. We will support your child as much as possible by organising a volunteer to spend time trying to help your child learn them; they too will also test your child.

In Maths, your child will focus on all written operations- addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. These will be visited every day. Your child will spend one week focusing on one written operation, so all written operations will be visited on a four-week rota. Your child will spend more time focusing on written multiplication and division, as these operations are fairly new to your child. It is vitally important that your child can work through multi-step word problems involving all operations; so most maths lesson will support your child through this. Furthermore, your child will spend a lot of time on fractions, decimals and percentages and a smaller amount of time on geometry and statistics. Please support your child by encouraging them to complete their homework in Maths, which again will be given out on a Wednesday and expected to be handed in the following Monday. Most Maths homework will be set using 'MyMaths', which will require the Internet.

Throughout all lessons in Year 5, your child will be asked to choose the level at which they want to work. So most tasks will be set at an easier, intermediate or harder level. This is done because every child has different ways of learning and will grasp some concepts quicker/easier than other concepts. Your child is mature enough to make his/her own choice in order to challenge him/herself. If, however, I feel that your child is not working at the appropriate level to suit their ability they will be asked to complete a better suited task. At the end of every task is an extension with a house point reward. This encourages your child to reach the extension activity. If your child has not completed enough work during the allocated time allowance he/she will be asked to continue in his/her own time.

RE is a very important part of our school life and is taught discretely throughout the week. We spend four weeks on an RE unit before progressing onto the next unit. Children work individually through a 'Journey in Faith' book and collaborately in a Class Book. Your child will say a prayer three times a day and will 'meditate' once a day reflecting God's word.

Your child will be taught by Mr Tuson for computing skills, Mrs Fuente for Spanish, Mrs Ayles for Music and Ms Pering for PE (please ensure your child has a PE kit readily available that is clearly labelled).

I hope to support most topic area with a class trip of some sort, but I am also aware that the trips can become quite costly so I will endeavour to keep the cost low.

We hope your child will enjoy their time in Year 5 as much as we will enjoy teaching your child. Should any problems arise please do not hesitate to see me.