

Dear Year 5 Children and Parents,

First let me start with a welcome. We are delighted to welcome you back and are looking forward to an action-packed year. We hope you've had a wonderful summer and are fully refreshed for a fun filled year ahead.



This year our team consists of the wonderful Mrs Me-in (our class TA), the lovely Mrs Harding who will be covering Y5 on a Friday for my management time and me (Mrs Gray). Please be assured that throughout the year we will be working together very closely as a team to ensure consistency and the absolute best for each and every child in our care.

As you will know from Mrs Berry's letter last week, the timings for the school day are returning to pre-covid times. This means that your child will need to arrive at school between **8:40am and 8:55am** and enter through the blue door by the chapel. They will then need to walk through the corridors past Y6 (not through the hall) and up to our new Y5 classroom.

The school day will then be ending at **3:15pm**. Year 5 children will be released from the **double blue gates** on the school field at 3.15pm. If you are collecting your child, they will be handed to you by the double gates. If you have given your child permission to be released directly from school, they will be released from the double blue gates on the school field. If your child has a bike or a scooter, they will need to follow the one-way system and walk up along the path of the car-park, collect their scooter/bike and then go across the car park and out of the school gate. We will assist with this until a routine is established.

Please can I also remind you that children must have their PE kits in school all week. In Year 5, we have PE on Monday and Thursday afternoons. PE kits must be in named bags and kept on children's pegs.

Our topic this term is 'Medicine Through Time' where we will be looking at the development of medical practises from medieval times to the present. To kick start our topic, we have a very exciting webinar booked in with members of the team involved in developing the Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine to think about how medicine is still being developed today. Along side our topic, we will reading Malorie Blackman's 'Pig Heart Boy' which tells the story of a child undergoing pioneering and innovative treatment involving a pig to human heart transplant operation.

Homework

To link with our topic, you will find our homework grid on the school website and Google Classrooms. These grids outline a selection of different tasks to be completed by the end of this half term. The grid consists of 4 different activities. Each activity has a given number

of points and over the half term the children will need to complete a minimum of 35 points (of course they can exceed this number if they wish). It is important to make sure that at least one activity from each group is completed (A-D).

This homework can be either submitted on Google Classrooms or if you have created something spectacular that you would like to display, please do bring it into school. Please do feel free to ask if you are unsure or need any support with the activities. Have fun!

SPELLINGS

Every week the children will have 5 spellings to learn from the statutory curriculum spelling list. These lists are given out for Y3/4 and Y5/6 at the beginning of the term and the children also have them stuck in the front cover of their Literacy books. Each week the children will have 5 to learn and on completion of these words will be given the next 5. The remainder of the spelling test will be on rules taught that week during spelling lessons. For example, if the rule learnt is how to turn singular nouns into plural nouns, the children will know the rules (change 'y' to an 'i' and add es, if it ends in th/sh/ch/x then add es etc) from their lessons and will be asked to practise this rule at home. During their spelling test the remaining 5 words might then be churches, foxes, babies, mountains and tables. The **test will take place on a Friday morning** and the children's new spelling will be sent home via Google Classrooms on the Friday afternoon.

This week, as we are still establishing which spellings from the statutory lists the children have retained, the spellings will be solely on the rule taught in class. Next Friday, the children will be allocated with 5 spellings from the statutory curriculum list and 5 following the spelling rule covered.

TIMES TABLES

To support with speedy recall of times tables, we also ask that children spend no longer than 10 minutes completing their allocated challenges on Times Tables Rocks Stars (TTRS) at home.



MATHS & ENGLISH

Each week, there will be IXL Maths and English homework set on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday. This will either be based on what we have been covering in class or revising an area we should already know. The Maths homework is compulsory and must be completed however the English is optional - you may wish to keep your eye on what the English tasks are and complete the areas that you need additional practise on.



READING

In addition to the set homework, I cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading. The children should be reading most evenings and discussing their texts. Please also remember to record

reading in their journals provided – it is absolutely fine for the children to record in their reading journals themselves.

Key Stage Two - Vocabulary Challenge!

At St Augustine's, we believe that reading is an essential skill for all children and we hope that they enjoy reading for pleasure. This year, we are introducing a new 'Vocabulary Challenge' into Key stage Two. Our aim is to encourage children to develop their understanding of a range of vocabulary and to begin to apply this when reading independently and in their independent writing.

When your child is reading at home, they will need to record new vocabulary into their reading record along with a definition of the word.

1 word + definition will score 1 point in the Vocabulary Challenge.

EACH WEEK your child can score up to 5 points (if they write definitions for FIVE words).

When a child achieves 30 vocabulary points this success will be shared in our Celebration Assembly on a Friday and children awarded with a special vocabulary star badge. These badges can be worn proudly on their school jumpers! Additional badges can be won at 60 points, 100 points and 150 points.

Please use the yellow reading records to record not only reads but also new vocabulary from your reading and its meaning, these will be monitored by staff and added to the tally in class. Children should be prepared to discuss the new vocabulary with staff in school.

The competition is on!

MEET THE TEACHER

We will be holding a 'Meet the Teacher' evening at 3.25pm on Thursday, 23 September for you to come into the classroom and discuss the new routines and expectations of the new year group. The time and date of this is yet to be confirmed but please keep your eyes on Parent Mail and Google Classrooms for updates.

I am very much looking forward to this year and thank you in advance for your support. After what has been an unprecedented few years, I am excited to get started in what will be a challenging but exciting year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Gray