

Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope the children have had a good holiday and are ready to face the challenges of Year 5. It will be a year of hard work but lots of fun too.

Hopefully, you have received the curriculum overview for this term that was sent home yesterday. This gives a good idea of the areas of learning that we will be covering. This week, we began our history topic, *The Tudors*, which will continue until February. Where possible, English lessons will relate to the topic too. This week in English, we started to read 'A Pig Called Henry.' The children compared some aspects of life for a Tudor child with life for us today. The children also wrote a recipe to cure a gruesome Tudor disease! In maths, the children worked on place value, reading and writing numbers to a million and rounding numbers. We began our science topic, 'Materials and their properties', by learning about three states of matter: solid, liquid and gas and looking into the reversible change of evaporation and condensation. We are very lucky to be involved in the 'Chance to Shine' programme. This means that the children will receive ten hours of cricket coaching, provided by a coach from Kent County Cricket Club. The first lesson took place on Wednesday and despite the fact that it was very wet, so we had to be indoors, the children had a great time and learnt some great catching skills.

Home learning

The children have all been given a reading journal. Reading remains the most important home learning and the children should read every day. **Please encourage your child to read and to record their reading in their journal, which will be checked in school daily.** It is also essential for the children to have instant recall of multiplication and division facts, up to 12 x 12. Spellings will be given each week and tests will take place on Fridays. Often, an additional home learning task will be set, but this week we will ease in with reading, times tables practice (which can be done on TTRockstars) and spellings to learn for the first test on Friday 13th September. The spellings link with our maths lesson from Thursday.

Teacher of the Week

Each week, one child will have the opportunity to be the teacher for up to 20 minutes. The child can choose any subject that interests them to share with the class. 'Lessons' should be prepared in advance and may include a PowerPoint presentation, some interesting objects to look at and an interactive activity for the class to be involved in. Previous subjects have been really wide ranging, from ballet to magic, drones and optical illusions. It's a great opportunity for the children to share areas of interest and expertise, whilst demonstrating their speaking and listening skills. Children should all begin to think about what they may base their lesson on, but may not need to prepare it yet, as it will take 30 weeks to get through the whole class. We have decided who the first few 'teachers' will be, to give those children time to get organised.

Dates for your diary:

Forest School

Our first Forest School session is due to take place on Friday 13th September. Please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing, including wellies if they want to go in the stream, and a towel. If any parents are available to help, I would greatly appreciate it.

Year 5 PESE (11+) meeting

This meeting will take place in the Year 5 classroom on Wednesday 11th September at 7:00pm.

Class Act of Worship

Our first class act of worship will be on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at 9:00am. We hope you can join us.

I have received quite a few forms giving the children permission to walk home from school without a parent. I have attached the information about Year 5 that was given out at the Curriculum Evening below this letter and the form is at the end, if you still need to complete it for your child.

If you have any questions, or if at any time you feel that your child feels under pressure, is upset or worried about anything, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to come and chat to me about it.

Best wishes,

Louise Grinstead

Year 5 2019-2020

Staff

Mrs Grinstead will be the Year 5 teacher for the 2019-2020 academic year. Mrs Ward and Mrs Burling will be class teaching assistants for two mornings each per week. Mrs Miller will also be supporting in the classroom most of the time.

Expectations

As with all classes in our school, the expectations for behaviour will be very high. The level of work does jump up in Year 5 and the children will be working very hard - with support of course. The children will be encouraged to take pride in their work, always producing work of the highest possible standard.

Equipment

All equipment that the children need will be provided, but they will be expected to be respectful and take care of it. The children will start the year writing in pencil, but as soon as their handwriting is judged to be in a small, neat, cursive style, they will be given a pen to write with. If you would like to provide your child with a small pencil case with their own equipment in, that would be great. Pens should have blue ink and should not be biro's please.

Topics

The main history topic in Year 5 is The Tudors and this will be studied in depth for the first half of the year. For the last three terms, the children will have a geography focus of the Rainforest.

Some English work will be based on topic-related texts, but other units will stand alone. Details about English and all other subjects covered each week will be sent home in the weekly newsletter.

Home Learning

The most important home learning that the children will have is reading. The importance of reading cannot be overemphasised, as it is the key to learning in all areas of the curriculum. The best writers are always avid readers. The children will be expected to read almost every night. They will be given a reading journal to record pages read in, which will be checked every day at school. If parents listen to their children read, or talk to them about their books, they are very welcome to write in the reading journals too.

In addition to reading, the children will have weekly spellings to learn and times table practice should be done regularly on TTRockstars. Once a week, the children will be given one additional piece of home learning, which may be some maths to reinforce learning done in class, a piece of research or a longer, practical project. The children will certainly not be expected to spend hours on home learning: they will be working hard enough during the day at school. However, when home learning has been set, it is important that all children complete it and parents' support with encouraging children to do so is greatly appreciated.

Communication

Mrs Grinstead is very happy to talk to parents about their children, to address any concerns and answer any queries. She will see the children out at the end of each day, so that is a good time to catch her for a quick word. If a longer chat is needed, please send in a note and a time can be arranged for a meeting or a phone call can be made. Please do not use the children's reading journals as contact books - a separate note is much better.

Timetable

P.E. will take place on Mondays and Fridays. Please ensure that your child has his/her PE kit in school on these days, with absolutely everything named. We will go outside whenever the weather is suitable to do so.

Computing lessons will be taught by Mrs Martin, who is a specialist in this area of the curriculum.

R.E lessons will be taught weekly by Mrs Holditch.

Walking home

In Year 5, children are allowed to walk home without an adult, as long as written permission has been given for them to do so. A form is included at the end of this letter.

Trips

O2: We are hoping to take the Year 5 and Year 6 classes to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices concert. This is an event that we take part in bi-annually. The children learn songs and join in with up to 8000 other children to perform them in the O2. Parents are invited to come and watch and it is always an awesome experience. More details will be provided when we have them.

France: Towards the end of the year, we will go on a residential trip to Hardelot in France. This is a three day trip which includes activities such as looking around Boulogne, visiting a sweet factory and going to a goat farm.

Secondary Schools

Year 5 is the time when many parents start to think about which secondary school would be the best place for their children. This may well include deciding whether or not it is appropriate to enter your child for the PESE (11+) test. We are here to support you with this decision and a meeting to explain the process will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th September. Individual meetings to discuss our school recommendations regarding the Kent Test will be held on Wednesday 3rd June 2020.

In order for your son/daughter to be able to walk home from Day 1,
Term 1, please sign this and hand in before the end of term.

Permission to walk home

Year 5 2019/2020

Child's name

I give permission for my child to walk home after school.

Please specify which days this applies to:

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

I give permission for my child to walk home after an after school club.

Signed: Date: