

September 2024

Dear parents and carers of children in Year 4/5,

Welcome back to school and I hope that you are enjoying being back in the routine of school! The children have all settled in well and we have had a very productive and calm couple of days. I will outline in this letter a few details about the routines in class and underneath you will find an overview of the curriculum areas being studied this term.

Reading Books - the children have all been given a new Reading Record in which they can record their reading both in school and at home. The expectation for the whole school is that every child reads to an adult at home for 5-10 minutes every day. They will receive Dojo points for every day they can show a signature to say they have read at home. Supporting your child to read at home is the single most important thing you can do in terms of aiding academic progress. We know there is a direct link between those who read regularly and those who leave primary school with good SATs scores and a firm foundation for doing well at secondary. I will be reading to the children regularly, starting with a wonderful book called 'The Wild Way Home'.

Water bottles - please ensure all children bring a water bottle to school. To avoid spills, these are kept at the back of the classroom but can be accessed regularly, particularly in hot weather. If your child has a medical condition which requires them to drink a lot of water throughout the day, please let me know so we can support this.

PE kits - Mr Porter will teach the whole class on Fridays and Year 5 on their own on Tuesdays and as such they do require a full PE kit in school at all times. This includes shoes suitable for doing lessons outside. If your child does an after-school sports club and goes home in their kit, they are responsible for returning it to school the next day. Dark tracksuit bottoms may be worn in the colder weather, long hair must be tied back and earrings removed or covered. Year 4 will be swimming on Tuesdays until Christmas and as a statutory requirement, this forms their second PE lesson of the week for this term.

Homework - you will be receiving some further communication from Mr Edwards regarding our homework policy and we will be sending out a questionnaire to collect your views on the subject. For this year, I am only going to be setting MyMaths homework regularly. Some weeks this may be linked to our learning in class and some weeks it will be revision of times tables or basic maths facts. I try very hard never to set content we haven't covered! Therefore, if your child is unable to do the homework, I would encourage them to work through the accompanying lesson on MyMaths as revision. This means that there won't be any learning log set in class 4/5. Occasionally I might set something as pre-learning such as to watch a video or read something but the priorities for homework are reading every night and mastering times tables and other maths facts.

As always, if you have any queries about your child's experience in class, please catch me on the playground or make an appointment through the office. I don't monitor messages on class dojo but can have emails forward to me via Admin. Please bear in mind that there may well be a delay in responding to emails as I will usually be teaching. I am very much looking forward to working with your children this year.

Regards,

MRS JANE GRIEVES

Curriculum Area	Details
Maths	Children will focus on place value to start the term before moving onto the 4 operations, covering mental and written methods. We start each lesson with some arithmetic to build fluency and use of different strategies. For year 4, we will dedicate some time to learning and practicing times tables in readiness for the national times tables test in the spring. Times Tables Rockstars can still be used to practice all times tables up to 12 x 12.
English	We will start the term using the picture book, <i>Stone Age Boy</i> , to support our writing. We will continue to use the sentence stacking system of teaching writing where we work as a class to gather rich vocabulary and then focus on different types of sentences using the writing lenses which enable the children to use a wide variety of grammar and language techniques. At the end of the unit, the children will write their own story using what they have learnt. We will move onto non-fiction and poetry later in the term, linking to other areas of learning where we can. All children will take part in a guided reading session every week where they will practice their comprehension skills such as retrieval, inference and explanation. Spelling is taught during curriculum time rather than sending home lists to learn and the focus is on recognising common spelling patterns and learning techniques for retaining phonic knowledge.
History/Geography	Our focus this term is History and we will be finding out all about the Stone Age and how Britain changed through the Bronze Age through to the discovery of Iron. We will learn about how people lived in Britain with a strong focus on the chronology of this period, using timelines to plot the major changes. Towards Christmas, we will be shifting focus to Geography, looking at regions and counties before comparing two differing regions of the UK. We will link our art and DT to the Stone Age as much as possible, looking at cave paintings and other Stone Age art.
Science	Year 4 will be taught science by Mr Edwards and will start the year looking at how we classify different animals. After half term they will move onto looking at sound. I am teaching Year 5 about the circulatory system where we will look at the role of the heart in keeping us alive and about the impact of activity on the rate at which blood is pumped round our bodies. We will also consider how to keep our hearts healthy with a healthy lifestyle. After half term we will move on to classifying organisms and look at the work of Carl Linnaeus.
RE	Mrs Dent will be teaching RE on a Friday and will be starting the term looking at Buddhism and whether it is possible to be happy all the time. After half term she will focus on Christianity as the children look again at the Christmas story and consider the real meaning of Christmas.
Music	Year 4: In choir the children will continue to develop further skills in harmony and dynamics, while learning songs for Harvest festival, Young Voices and the Christmas performance. Year 5: In choir this year, the children will take more of a leading role as they support years 3 & 4 in harmony work. We will be learning songs for Harvest festival, Young Voices and the Christmas performance. Year 5 will be learning guitar, playing chords to accompany simple songs.
PE	All of year 4 will be swimming this term, either working towards their National Curriculum standard or improving their strokes, stamina and safety in the water. At this time, Y5 will have a PE lesson with Mr Porter from Challenge Sport where they will work on their multi-skills. On Fridays, Mr Porter will be working on sending and receiving and shooting skills in a range of invasion games.
Computing	Both year groups will focus mainly on keeping safe online this term. Year 4 will also embark on some coding work and Year 5 will look at Computer Networks.

PSHCE	We will start the term introducing the Zones of Regulation which is our whole school approach to supporting children with strategies and language to recognise when they are not in the right zone for learning and for regulating those emotions. There will be whole school assemblies on this initiative as well as follow up work in class and the whole staff will be using a common language to embed this approach. We will then return to our Jigsaw PSHE scheme which starts with Being Me in My World, understanding how our actions affect the class and our wider school community. We will be looking at rules and responsibilities and building our class charter.
French	Mrs Ottolangui will be teaching French to Year 4 and 5 in their Year groups. Year 4 are starting with Les Quatre Amis Animal Soundscape Le Carnaval des animaux (Saint-Saëns) and Georges le poisson rouge- George the Goldfish talking book; positional prepositions and expressing likes/dislikes in French. After half term, classroom objects (stationery). On y va - transport; further conversational phrases - J'habite à... and Christmas Around the world. Year 5 will start with La rentrée (September return to school - start of school year) - in the French classroom, clothing masculine/feminine adjectival agreements, high frequency verb conjugation, Notre Monde (Our World) and bilingual dictionary work. After half term, Les planètes Le Facteur Spatial - (The Space Postman) talking book Revise animals/ preferences and class surveys.