



September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 5! We have had a great start to the term and are looking forward to the coming year ahead. The children have settled well into class, especially after such a long absence from school, and are quickly adapting to all the new routines and procedures. It has been lovely getting to know them over the last week or so, and to see how happy they are to be back at school. Long may it continue!

General Reminders

- PE – this is on a Wednesday. Children should come to school in their PE kit.
- Please ensure that girls' hair is tied back and that any bands or clips are school uniform colours only.
- Coats, when required, should be navy or black.

Curriculum

English

Our initial class text is 'Here We Are – Notes for Living on Planet Earth' by Oliver Jeffers. We are joining with thousands of other schools around the country in exploring this beautiful picture book as a whole school. Through a wide range of activities, this unit of work provides the children with an opportunity to reflect on the past six months and look ahead positively to the future. The children will have the opportunity to write for a variety of purposes, including poetry, formal and informal letters, and descriptive prose. It will also link to a range of themes including equality, social justice and the Black Lives Matter movement; protecting the environment; and the importance of mental health and wellbeing. These topics will all be dealt with sensitively and in an age-appropriate manner. If you would like any further details please do contact one of the Year 5 team. Later in the half term we will continue to explore our world through poetry, focusing on a collection entitled 'Cosmic Disco – Poems by Grace Nichols'. As well as responding creatively to the poems they hear, the children will have a specific focus on vocabulary and descriptive language/imagery in their own written work. Both texts link to our science topic for the half term.

During this half term, the children will also be revising key grammar concepts and spelling patterns from Year 4, and moving on to the Year 5 grammar, punctuation and spelling curriculum after this focused revision period.

Mathematics

The first topic covered will be number and place value (including Roman numerals and negative numbers), followed by work on addition and subtraction. At the end of the half term we will also look at aspects of statistics, including line graphs and timetables. Times tables to 12 x 12 (including division facts) will be revised throughout the year – please support your child with this. Focused 'refresher' lessons of linked concepts from Year 4 will be taught prior to introducing new content from the Year 5 curriculum.

Science

Our topic for this half term is 'Earth and Space', which will cover the relative sizes of the Earth, Moon and Sun, and the distances between them; how day, night and seasonal changes occur; and the phases of the Moon/lunar cycle.

History

We are exploring the Shang Dynasty of China during our first half term. The children will have the chance to investigate what life was like for both royalty and ordinary people in this period of history, as well as developing their understanding of methods of historical enquiry, such as comparing written history with the evidence gained from archaeological remains. The children will also explore the achievements of this ancient civilization, particularly the writing and calendar developed during this time.

RE

We have three RE topics for the whole of the Autumn term. They are:

Domestic church – family	OURSELVES
Baptism/Confirmation – belonging	LIFE CHOICES
Advent/Christmas – loving	HOPE

We will also explore Judaism as a different faith during the Autumn term.

Art

The topic of 'Cityscapes' is the focus for the first half term, in which the children have the opportunity to develop a range of drawing and painting techniques, using cities around the world as inspiration.

Homework

This will be set and handed in digitally, using Google Classrooms. Children have been provided with a log in for Google Classroom, and have been given support in class on how to access and use this facility before using it at home for the first time. If you have any barriers to your child accessing online homework, please do speak to a member of the Year 5 team, or to Mr Mooney.

Maths homework will be set on a **Monday** and due in on a **Thursday**.

English homework will be set on **Thursday** and due in on **Monday**.

One piece of homework linked to RE, history, geography or science will be set each week on **Friday** and due on **Wednesday**.

Spellings will be set and tested on **Fridays**. Testing of spellings will take place in class as usual.

Children should also continue to use the Mathletics and TTRockstars online learning platforms – logons will be reissued shortly – you did receive these during the lockdown period.

Reading

Your child is expected to read for at least 15 minutes each night. Books, magazines, newspapers and e-books all provide valuable reading practice, and encouraging children to read according to their interests will support them in developing a love of reading. Currently books from home should be read at home, and remain at home, and books from school will be read in school. School books will be quarantined in school for 72 hours before being passed between pupils. We are not sending home Reading Record books at present. However, we are continually reviewing our provision and will update you should any changes occur.

We are always happy to discuss any questions or issues you may have, either by phone appointment, online meeting, or in person if necessary. We are looking forward to working with you to give the children a fantastic time in Year 5.

From the Year 5 team

Miss Jackson, Mrs Rowland, and Mrs Cernuschi