

11 September 2014

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year 5! I hope that you had a great summer, and are looking forward to the new school year.

Reading books

In Year 5 your child will be responsible for changing their own reading book. The bookmark system with which you are familiar will continue. Please ensure that you support your child's reading and read with this whenever possible. Just twenty minutes of reading a day can make a huge difference to the progress your child makes in all subjects at school. As their books get longer, we will allow more time for the children to enjoy their book at home. We have bought quite a lot of new books over the last year, so all book bands should be well stocked. Even in Year 5, I do feel it is important for children to be heard reading aloud.

Homework

To begin with, I will mostly be sending spellings home to learn as homework. These tend to include key words from our topics, and words with common or tricky spelling patterns. There will be a spelling test every Friday afternoon. As the year gets into full swing, I will probably send home maths and grammar practise as well.

PE kits – IMPORTANT

Please note that for the duration of this term children should have an outdoor PE kit in school at all times. This is to be kept in your child's locker and it should contain a pair of trainers or plastic studded boots (the type made for AstroTurf are perfect as they are suitable for both field and playground use), a warm pair of tracksuit bottoms and a warm hoodie or jumper. In order for your child to take part in PE lessons, it is essential that they have their outdoor PE kits in school at all times, as **all** lessons will be outside. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled. PE is currently timetabled for Monday and Thursday.

Areas of study

Please see the curriculum plan for more detail about the areas your child will be studying this half-term. In science, we will be learning about habitats and local birds and wildlife. To support this area of study, we will be going on a number of walks in the local countryside. By the end of the term, the children should be getting quite good at recognising different birds, trees and plants. It would be great if you could help them with this by pointing out the different wildlife that you come across in your garden and when you are out and about!

In History we will be studying the Anglo-Saxons. We will find out what Britain was like in the 5th Century, who the new invaders were, and why they came to Britain. Later we will be looking at Anglo Saxon society, art and culture.

We have arranged a whole school trip to Dalby Forest on 29 September. Children in Year 5 will be learning how to use Ordnance Survey maps to navigate the Bridestones Walk.

Rules and Expectations

I have very high expectations for the pupils in Year 5 – both in terms of the quality of work they should be producing, and their behaviour in class and around school. I am sure you will support this throughout Year 5. If you wish to have a copy of our class rules, or discuss any issues relating to behaviour, I am usually available at the end of a school day.

Yours sincerely

Mr Lomas