



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Hello and welcome to the new school year! I hope you all had wonderful summer holidays (although they already seem so long ago!) I have had the opportunity to meet most of you at the end of the school day but if our paths have not yet crossed, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big hello and express how much I am looking forward to working with such a lovely class for the upcoming year. We are very lucky to also have Miss McGinn working with us as our Teaching Assistant in the mornings. Within this newsletter we hope to give you an insight into the term ahead as well as begin to answer some of the questions that you may have.

Year 5 Expectations

As your child moves up into Year 5 and into the upper end of Key Stage 2, the expectations of their behaviour and work increases as they become role models for the younger children in the school. We have drawn up a contract as a class and I expect that all children endeavour to uphold their side of the contract at all times. This includes arriving at school on time, wearing full school uniform, being conscientious, hardworking and always trying their best. Within the classroom and throughout the school, the children will be awarded jobs and responsibilities that they are expected to complete sensibly and independently. Furthermore, we ask that all children complete each piece of work to the best of their ability and organise it clearly and neatly, in accordance with our school policy for presentation.

Autumn Term Curriculum

Literacy – Our first text this year will be “Danny the Champion of the World” (by Roald Dahl). Before Christmas, we will also study “The Highwayman” (by Alfred Noyes) and use film clips from “Avatar” as a stimulus for our writing.

Numeracy – We will first be consolidating our understanding of the mathematical concepts within the KS2 framework, ensuring that children are secure with their understanding of place value and the four operations. We will then move on to exploring measure and shape after the half term break.

Science – We have recently begun our topic on Earth and space (my personal favourite!) and this will run up until half term. After half term, we will study different materials and their properties which will give us lots of opportunities for practical experiments!

RE – We will first be learning about creation and then miracles in RE. Our Year 5 and 6 Class Mass is on Tuesday 26th September (parents and carers welcome).

PE – This term, our lessons will take place on a Monday (disc sports until half term, table tennis thereafter) and a Wednesday (dance until half term, orienteering thereafter). Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on these days. Please also make sure that they also have outdoor clothing (tracksuit/trainers) as we move into the winter months. Earrings are not permitted to be worn on PE days.

Homework

This year, teachers will no longer be setting written homework tasks and instead, the focus across all year groups will be on spelling, times tables and reading.

Spellings

Your child will be given 10 spellings each week which they are expected to practise at home. They will receive their spellings on a Friday and will be tested the following Friday. We recommend that children should use the "Look, Cover, Write, Check" method that they have been shown at school to help them.

Time Tables

It is outlined in the National Curriculum that children should be able to accurately and rapidly recall all their times tables (up to 12xtables) by the time they leave Year 4. It is therefore important that any gaps in their knowledge are plugged early in Year 5 to enable children to access and succeed in the Year 5 Maths curriculum. Children should aim to practise their times tables regularly (daily where possible) at home. I will provide materials to help with this over the year but the old fashioned methods of chanting and quick-fire questions and answers are very often the most effective and so I would encourage you to do this with your child as often as possible.

Reading

Your child should aim to read at home on a (almost) daily basis. The expectation for Year 5 is that they read for a minimum of 15 minutes 5 times a week. They have been provided with a reading record which should be completed daily, detailing what they are reading and with whom. Now that your child is in upper KS2, we trust them to fill in their own record and encourage this to help them to become more independent. I ask for your support in encouraging and monitoring your child's reading and that you sign their record each week to confirm that what is recorded is a true record (even if it says that they have not read anything!) Please ensure that this reading record is brought into school each Monday so that it can be checked.

Residential Trip

As you may be aware, Year 5 take part in a residential trip to Alton Castle in March. This year, it has booked for the 5th-7th March 2018. Further information regarding this will be received in due course.

Dates for the Diary

26 th September	Year 5 and 6 class mass (9:15am)
4 th October	Open evening for parents (see slip on last week's newsletter)
6 th October	Family fast day (dress as colourful as you can!)
20 th October	Teacher training day
23 rd – 27 th October inclusive	Half term holiday
2 nd November	All Souls' Day and whole school mass (9:15am)
9 th November	School photographs
14 th November	Year 5 and 6 class mass (9:15am)
2 nd December	Christmas Bazaar
21 st December	Last day of term

A Message From Miss Frearson

I have been thrilled at the way our year has begun so far; you really are the parents of a truly fantastic group of individuals with a diverse range of talents and personality traits. I am thoroughly looking forward to the upcoming months and for working closely with you. I will see you all at the open evening in October but should you have any questions or concerns (or just simply want to say hello!) do not hesitate to come into school to discuss them.

Kind regards,

L. Frearson