

Year 5/6 Newsletter

September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope that you have all managed to have a fantastic summer and that you have settled smoothly into the slightly different school routines. The children are settling down well into their new classes and we have taken the first four weeks of term to ensure the children feel safe, secure and ready to learn again after such a long period of time out of school. We are really looking forward to working with them over the coming year, which is full of exciting topics! This year we will have Mrs Chambers, Miss Cope, Mrs Taylor and Ms Przystrupa working alongside the Year 5/6 team. We have started the term with lots of discussions of emotions, changes and how we can manage difficult experiences. Despite some worries and reservations at the start, the children now seem well prepared to tackle the year ahead.

Topics

Our topic for the first half of the Advent Term is "How can we find the rainbow after the storm?" We will use this topic to share experiences over the last 6 months and ensure the children's mental wellbeing is at the forefront of everything we do. This will be accompanied by our new RE topic: 'Ourselves'. Our Literacy lessons are supported by the beautifully illustrated poem 'Rain before Rainbows' by Smriti Halls. It will encourage the pupils to remember that there is always something positive to look forward to, even when things seem challenging and scary.

RSE/Journey in Love

In Year 5/6, all children will follow the religious syllabus, 'Journey in Love', for Relationships and Sex Education. The children will complete this in their separate year groups and all content will be age appropriate. More details will follow for when we will be teaching this, as well as the opportunity for you to review the content that will be shared with the children prior to lessons.

Reading and Homework

All of the children have been issued with a new home/school diary, which they will keep **for the whole academic year**. This diary can be used to communicate with us as well as providing you with information about what your child is currently doing in school. **If anything changes in regards to how your child will be getting home, please write this in their diary.** It will also tell you what your child's current targets are for each half term. Please ensure you check your child's diary regularly and sign it each week. As with reading books, please encourage them to make sure they have it in school everyday!

Please ensure that your child is reading at home as often as possible (ideally every day!). As usual they will be issued with school reading books and should also be encouraged to read other material available to them at home. Please encourage your child to ensure they have their reading book in school every day, as teachers and other members of staff will hear them read at least once a week. In Year 5 and 6, we have a 'Book Point' system. For every two times your child reads and this is initialled in their diaries, they will receive one book point. A book point will also be awarded for each book finished. Whenever they have been awarded 50 book points, they will receive a reward. We hope this will encourage them to read more at home on their own or to someone they know.

At present there is no homework set for the year 5/6 cohort. We will gradually reintroduce it as the children settle back into the swing of things.

School Website

Please keep an eye on the school website for updated information and pictures of the children's work and activities on the class pages.

Equipment

Please ensure that your child has the correct equipment with them at school. PE kits should be worn to school on a Friday as this is the day for Y5/6 PE. We are asking them to come into school wearing their PE kits to avoid mixing with other classes to get changed. May we remind you that this consists of a **plain white t-shirt, blue shorts/skirt, plimsolls or trainers**. A plain dark tracksuit may be worn for outdoor lessons. Earrings must be removed and children **must** be able to do this themselves. The children may also bring a bottle of water with them to school and we would really encourage all children to do so - this can really boost their brain power! Please make sure this is in a labelled bottle and that your child brings it home to be washed and refilled each day.

Y5 Swimming

Unfortunately, at the moment the Year 5 swimming will not be starting until January due to the current health and safety measures.

We hope that you have found this newsletter useful and have learnt a little about what your child will be doing over the coming term. If you do have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at school - we are always available on the playground at the end of the day!

Yours sincerely

K. Macdonald

E. Pugh

N. Lawrence

Miss K Macdonald

Miss E Pugh

Mrs N Lawrence