

Year 5/6 Newsletter

September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope that you have all had a fantastic summer and have settled back smoothly into the school routine. The children have all settled down well into their new classes and 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 Shaw, Mrs Chambers and Mrs Taylor working alongside the Year 5/6 team. We have started the term well with our visit to the Briars for our Year 6 children and the children in Year 5 have got stuck in to their first week back very quickly, throwing themselves into all things related to our Mission Statement.

Topics

Our topic for the first half of the Autumn Term is "Where in the world have you been?" We are excited to learn about: forces, algorithms, different continents and map land use to name a few, along with our new RE topic called 'Ourselves'. Our Literacy lessons are supported by the text 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo (ISBN 978-1-4052-2174-0). Children are welcome to bring their own copy of the text into class to use in lessons. We will of course also continue to develop the key areas of Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and RE alongside this.

Reading and Homework

All of the children have been issued with a new home/school diary. 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. It will also tell you what your child's current targets are. 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. 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.

We have sent home a copy of the term's homework expectations with your child. There is an overall project, as well as some basic skills for your children to complete. Please ensure this is handed in on the given date. The children need to become more independent in ensuring their homework is completed but please feel free to support them as needed.

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 in school at **all times** with all items of clothing clearly labelled. Y5/6 will have PE on a Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning. 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.

During the year we may undertake additional activities such as cooking, DT and visits within the local community. We therefore ask that, if possible, you could donate a £3 voluntary contribution (£1 a term) to cover costs. We would be very grateful for your support with this.

Y5 Swimming

The children in Year 5 will be swimming this year at West Park Leisure Centre. These sessions will be led by Mrs Taylor, Mrs Chambers and Mrs Shaw on a Tuesday afternoon. The children will be split into two groups and swim for 3 half-terms each. More details to follow!

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!

We look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming parents evening.

Yours sincerely

K. MacDonald

E. Pugh

N. Sweeney

Miss K MacDonald

Miss E Pugh

Miss N Sweeney