

Dear Year 5 children, parents and carers,

Welcome back for our fourth term of Year 5!

Our new topic is – Curiosity: Space. You can see our topic web on the school website.

Our LSA is Cornel and we will work closely with Mackenzie in Pangolin class.

Dates for your diary

Book fair – wb 25.2.24

Parents' evenings – 6.3.24 and 7.3.24

World Book Day – 7.3.24

Aerospace trip – 8.3.24

Science Week – wb 18.3.24

Drop off and pick up

- Please drop your children off at the gates between 8.45am and 8:55am, lessons start promptly at 8:55am. Please collect children at 3:25pm by the entrance to the main hall from the playground.

Class Expectations

- We are continuing to practice our Redfield Way this year, and will always aim to be kind, safe and ready. We are so excited to share and celebrate our Year 5 achievements, both in school and at home.
- Children should bring the following items to school every day:
 - A labelled water bottle
 - **Fruit or vegetables for a morning snack**, if they wish
 - Coat and other weather-appropriate clothing
- **Please don't bring in toys, stationery or other items from home.** If you wish to bring in an item from home for a special reason, please ask.

Swimming

Our weekly swimming lessons start this term, and we will be leaving for the pool at 8:55am every Thursday morning. Children need to bring swimming clothes, a towel and a hairband if they have long hair (swimming cap optional). Please let us know if you are able to accompany us on the walk.

Spelling

- Spelling tests will usually take place on a Friday. Spelling lists can be accessed via our section on the school website should you misplace your physical copy.
- Each week's list of words will be linked to a particular spelling pattern, which will be taught in lessons throughout the week.
- All children now have an account for Spelling Shed and have been assigned activities to help them practise their weekly spelling lists at home. Please let me know if your child has misplaced their login.

Reading

- Reading at home can have a huge effect on children's progress, as well as encouraging them to read for pleasure.
- All children will bring reading books home from school and they may have books of their own choice from home or the public library that they choose to read.
- Children should read independently or to an adult at least 5 times a week for 10 minutes.
- If your child mainly reads on their own, it is helpful to talk to them about what they're reading and ask them to summarise what they have read so far.
- All children should have a reading record to take home. These will be checked on a Friday.

Times Tables

- We practice times tables frequently in school but any extra practice at home is always useful – they provide the building blocks for lots of our maths, so it really builds children's confidence to be fluent in their times tables.
- A little practice each day makes a huge amount of difference. Please use Timetables Rockstars (please let me know if you need a reminder of your login).

Communication

- Seesaw is the easiest way to contact us and we can call you back if you send a message. We aim to reply to Seesaw messages within 2 working days.
- Please **don't** use Seesaw for emergency messages as we cannot check them while teaching or in meetings. Continue to call the office for emergency messages.
- A member of the Year 5 team will be available on the playground between 3.25 and 3.35 every day. We are happy to catch up for an informal chat then and can arrange a meeting for longer conversations – we will aim to arrange meetings within a week.
- We will send out all school messages through Seesaw, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are having trouble accessing your account. We will also update Seesaw with news about our learning in class and photos of the children's work.
- The school website will be updated termly to share topics maps, spelling lists and any additional resources that can support learning at home.

Can you help?

- We would like to build a directory of skills or expertise that our families would be willing to volunteer in school.
- Please could you let us know if you would like to support in school and have a particular skill (for example an art technique or drama experience) or area of expertise that you would be willing to talk about (such as a career, religion, or knowledge of a different country or culture).
- We would love to involve as many families as possible in our learning, and year groups across the school may ask to draw on your expertise.
- If you are interested in and able to support on trips or visits this year, we would also love to hear from you.
- Thank you in advance if you are able to contribute!

Kind regards,

Natalie and Mackenzie