



Year 5 Autumn Newsletter

What a fantastic start to the new academic year we have had! The Year 5 staff were extremely proud of the children during our recent visit from the Eat Greek restaurant. Their behaviour was excellent, and they thoroughly enjoyed tasting the delicious Greek food.

Staff

This Year's teaching team are Miss Pagett and Mrs. Johnson. We are supported by our Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Bear, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Blackwood and Miss Yapp. The PPA team are Mrs. Roebury and Miss Joy.

Themes

Our teaching is approached through cross curricular themes. This term we are going back in time as we explore Ancient Greece. At the beginning of this term, the children received a letter and clues from Zeus – the King of the Gods. Because the children worked so hard, they were rewarded with a treat from Zeus, to participate in a Greek cooking workshop. The children were so inspired by this that they are currently designing their own Greek recipes inspired by a Greek god or goddess.

Greek Taverna 16th October @ 2.00 pm – 3:00pm – Once children have designed their Greek dishes, they will make them, and parents will be invited to a Greek Taverna where they will be able to taste their child's dish.

Introduction to Year 5 Workshop

We will be holding a workshop on Tuesday 30th September at 6pm in which we will outline how core areas of the curriculum are taught in Year 5, including reading, writing and maths. We will also share the key aspects of relationships, sex and health education covered in Year 5 and give an overview of trips and enrichments that make Year 5 unique. This workshop is not suitable for children to attend due to the information we will be sharing, it will be held in the Year 5 classrooms and should last no more than one hour. Please complete the Microsoft Form attached to the letter sent on Wednesday 17th September to confirm whether you will be attending or not.

End of day routines

We dismiss children from the door nearest to the main building in the 5/6 block. In order for this to run as smoothly as possible, please let us know in writing of any specific home time arrangements for your child. If you have already informed us of this, there is no need to send another letter. If these arrangements change at any point, please let us know in writing or by phone. Please note that teachers need to receive written permission signed by parents in the form of a handwritten/typed letter or an email stating which days their child is walking home from school/ to the school gates at the entrance without an adult picking them up from school at 3:30pm. Without written permission, we will not allow them to walk home alone.

Sometimes children who walk home alone like to bring a mobile phone to school with them, in case of an emergency when walking home. We ask that these are switched off and placed in their class teacher's desk drawer and locked away each morning. They will then be returned at the end of the day. However, these

items are brought in at the owner's risk. If your child needs to bring their phone to school, please ensure you have read the mobile phone and smart watch policy and signed and returned the home-school agreement to your child's class teacher.

If you wish to see a member of staff at the end of the day, please wait until every child has been dismissed before approaching, to ensure that all children have a clear view of their parents. Whilst we do our utmost to ensure that every child has returns home with all their belongings, there may be times when they need to re-enter the building to collect a forgotten item. Again, please wait until every child has been dismissed to avoid congestion at the door.

Snack

Children are asked to bring in a healthy snack for break times. This could be a fruit or vegetable snack, a cereal bar or a yogurt, but one item a day is sufficient. No nut-based products or kiwi fruit are allowed due to allergies amongst children and staff. Snacks should be kept in the classroom snack tray and lunchboxes in the lunchbox trolley, rather than in their bags. It is essential that all bottles and containers are named. If you would like to provide birthday treats for your child's class, then please also ensure that these are free from nuts.

Classroom routines

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be introducing your children to our class routines and expectations. You will probably be familiar with many of these, but we have outlined them below so that you understand them if your child brings them up in conversation.

Class rules

Each classroom has the class rules on display, which the children co-construct with their teacher. The primary focus is on respect – for every adult, for each other and for the classroom and school. We focus on being kind and polite, careful listening and working hard to achieve their best.

'Reach for the Stars' Zone Board

This is part of our whole school behaviour and relationship policy. Every child begins the day on the 'sunshine'. When they are spotted doing the right thing, such as following instructions or being kind to others, they are rewarded by moving up to the rocket, and subsequently up to the stars. If they have reached the stars by the end of the day, the children are given a star sticker which they stick onto their collection card - in Year 5 these are trophies. Once a child has earned 10 star stickers, they receive a 'Star Voucher' which will be kept safely for them by the class teacher in the 'Star Bank'. Children can then trade their vouchers for items from the 'Star Shop'. Children are encouraged to consider whether they wish to 'spend' or 'save' their vouchers.

During the day, if a child is struggling to make the right choices, they will be moved to the grey 'choice cloud' where they will be reminded of the choices they can make regarding their behaviour. As soon as they make the right choice, they move back to wherever they had already reached on the zone board. If they continue to struggle to make the right choice or find themselves in a 'stormy moment', they will be moved to the storm cloud where they will be supported by an adult to return to the sunshine. All storm cloud incidents are recorded; if they become a cause for concern, we will contact you so that we can work in partnership to support your child with their choices. In addition, they will take some time during

the next break or lunchtime to discuss their stormy moment with an adult and identify how to deal with the situation differently should it arise in the future.

PE & Forest School

Our P.E. days this term are Mondays and Thursdays. The children will need their P.E. kits in school on these days. As a reminder, for an outdoor kit the children should have a black tracksuit and trainers. Indoor kit is black PE shorts and a white t-shirt. Long hair must be tied up for PE, so please ensure your child has a hair bobble for this. They will be asked to remove any earrings when taking part in PE. Should your child be unable to remove these due to them being recently pierced, we ask that you provide a roll of named surgical tape to cover them. If these guidelines are not followed, your child will be unable to take part in the PE lesson. As the children are getting older, they may find it useful to bring some deodorant into school with them to help them feel more comfortable after PE. If they do bring this in, we ask that it is a roll on rather than an aerosol and that it is named and kept in their bag.

In Year 5 we try to build in Forest School sessions where appropriate to our themes. We will let you know as and when we plan these in. The recommendations for kit remain the same as in previous years: long sleeved tops, old full-length trousers, and waterproof footwear such as wellingtons or walking boots and a warm, waterproof coat. In addition, we suggest a spare pair of socks plus a jumper or fleece. Waterproof trousers are advised if your child already owns a pair. Children should come into school in their kits and then bring their school uniform to change into afterwards. Your child will be taking part in Forest School whatever the weather (with the exception of lightning storms, high winds or torrential rain) so please make sure they have a full named kit otherwise the Forest School experience is not as enjoyable. Forest School kits will be sent home at the end of the day. The Forest School motto is: "There is no such thing as inappropriate weather, only inappropriate clothing!"

Reading Books

Your child will have brought home a reading journal and reading book to enjoy at home. We ask that they read every day. We encourage children to read books from our reading spine, so they have the opportunity to read varied authors and high quality books across the school year. There is a box in their journal for you or your child to sign each time they read and then a section for any reading comments from across the week, along with an example at the front for how this could be filled in. We expect reading journals to come back into school every day and have impressed upon the children that they should take responsibility for this themselves. If your child is reading scheme books, then when they have finished reading their book, please write a comment to that effect in their journal. Your child's book will not be changed without such a comment. Please discuss your child's reading with them. Summarising their reading, asking their opinions, defining and using new words or discussing the characters and plots are simple ways that you can encourage their love of reading.

Supporting your child at home:

Homework

Following a review of the timetable in every year group, a school-wide adaptation is being made to homework. Currently, the setting and reviewing of homework takes between 30 to 60 minutes a week. This homework is then completed inconsistently, with some children putting a lot of time into their work

and others not completing it all. Therefore, the decision has been made that the hour currently used for homework would be better spent delivering an additional lesson. There are also two key areas of the curriculum where children really benefit from daily practice, so we feel it is better for parents and carers to really focus on these rather than trying to complete a wider set of homework where these two key aspects can be forgotten. From this September, each week we would like every child to complete the following:

1. **Reading.** Your child should read for 10 minutes or more every day. This reading activity needs to be recorded in your child's reading journal, as this will ensure we can work together to track progress.
2. **Times tables.** This comes in two parts. First, your child needs to spend time learning the times table that we have set them. Each child will have a different times table and their learning will be checked through the use of a weekly times table challenge. Second, your child is expected to complete a minimum of 10 minutes of TTRockstars activity over the course of the week. This will be in the form of Garage sessions, which will be set on Friday evenings and needs to be completed by the following Wednesday morning.

Times Table Rock Stars and Maths Challenge

TTRS (Times Table Rock Stars) is an excellent resource, which we would like children to use as often as possible to help them to maintain and build up their times tables fluency. It allows children to practice their recall of their multiplication times tables in a fun way. TTRS is linked to the multiplication tables challenge that your child is currently working on in class. Weekly times table challenges take place on a Wednesday. Children need to be fluent so that their tables recall is automatic scoring full marks twice to move up to the next challenge. In KS2 we will be having TTRS battles between classes and across the Key Stage too so the more your child uses TTRS, the more coins they will earn – and we all want to win that TTRS trophy for our classrooms!

Uniform

Correct uniform is to be worn at all times, including appropriate footwear. Whilst children may choose to wear trainers out to play, these will then need to be changed once the child returns into the school building. To avoid confusion, please make sure that **all** school uniform is well labelled. The only jewellery permitted are stud earrings and no bracelets/wristbands should be worn either.

The children will be doing a wide variety of art activities across this year. In order to protect their uniforms, please send in a named art apron/old shirt.

E-Safety

Our children are growing up in a digital world and are likely to be spending increasing amounts of time online as they get older. In order to help them remain safe online and understand both the benefits and potential risks of the internet, we do lots of age-appropriate work around e-safety in our computing lessons and within PSHCE. In addition, we send out an e-safety newsletter to parents/carers each month to keep you up to date with online safety risks, issues, advice and guidance related to keeping children safe online. Please take time to read this and where necessary, have any conversations with your children about the content to ensure they are able to enjoy technology safely and age-appropriately and

know what to do if they experience something which worries them online. Please follow this link to see any past newsletters and other useful E-Safety information. <https://www.lyppardgrange.worcs.sch.uk/online-safety/>

Visits and Activities

Over the course of the year, we will be taking the children on a selection of educational visits and hosting visitors designed to complement the themes we will be covering. Below you will find the dates for the ones we have already booked in. Separate letters will be sent for each of these nearer the time:

- 20th January 2026 – National Space Centre
- 3rd February 2026 – Primary STEM works challenge
- 2nd July 2026 - Bell boating
- 7th July 2026 – Lakeside Campus

Special Educational Needs

As a community school we welcome and provide for all children regardless of their culture, background or special educational needs. If you have any concerns about your child's individual needs, please arrange an appointment to discuss these with us and our school SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator) Mrs Edwards. We ask that you respect every family and their needs by showing your tolerance and acceptance of every child within our school, especially in front of your own children. If you have any concerns about the behaviour or support given to individual children, we would be happy to discuss our policy with you further by appointment.

Hopefully this guide will help you become familiar with the learning, expectations and activities in Year 5. We hope that their year will be extremely successful, fun-filled and enjoyable. We truly appreciate the high levels of support that children receive at home, as it really does help them achieve in class.

We hope that this information will be beneficial and help you to understand the expectations, routines and topics in school. If you wish to speak to us with any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us - via telephone!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Emily Pagett and Rupi Johnson (Class Teachers)
Amanda Bear, Liz Davies, Sarah Blackwood and Becky Yapp (Class Teaching Assistants)