



# 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 is: Miss Harris and Mrs. Johnson. We are supported by our Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Bear, Mr. Guyatt and Mrs. Clare.

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> October @ 2.00 pm** – 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.

## **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 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 the home-school agreement.

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 to 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 lunch trolley along with their lunchboxes, 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.

## **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. 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 do discuss

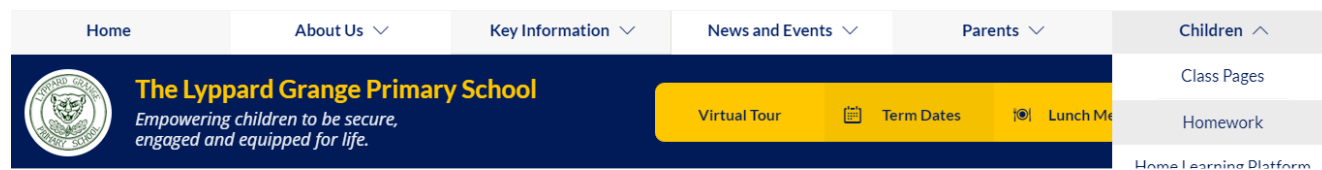
your child's reading with them, especially if they tend to read independently. Summarising their reading, asking their opinions, defining and using new words or discussing the characters and plots are simple ways that you can encourage their love of reading.

### **Supporting your child at home:**

#### Homework

The partnership between home and school is extremely important and homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework is essential in supporting the children's development as independent learners.

Teachers will continue to upload homework to the school website. Please click on 'Homework' which can be found under the 'Children' tab (pictured below).



Select your child's year group and select the appropriate week. From here, you can view, download, or print your child's homework. If accessing homework electronically is problematic for you, please speak to your child's class teacher. Each Friday, children will be sent home with their homework book, within which they can do any working out or writing necessary. Homework is due back in by Wednesday. By the end of the week, children will take part in a whole class feedback session with their class teacher. Children who have not completed homework will be given the opportunity to complete it in school, but please note that this will happen during their playtime.

#### KIRFs

KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts) are part of your child's Lyppard Grange homework. The idea is that these are math facts that your child needs to be fluent in to become excellent mathematicians. Each half term, we will upload a sheet that will inform you about what the current KIRF is that we are practicing in class during Number Magic lessons. On the sheet, there will be examples of how to practice the KIRF at home with your child. Little and often is the best approach to help your child's understanding of these concepts to become automatic. Varied activities and ideas will be signposted to you in this half-termly document.

#### 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. On P.E. days (Monday and Wednesday) please ensure children's earrings are taken out, taped or that children can take out their own earrings ahead of P.E. lessons taking place.

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/>

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,

Amelia Harris and Rupi Johnson (Class Teachers)  
Amanda Bear, Simon Guyatt and Nai Clare (Class Teaching Assistants)