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Head Teacher: Miss Anna Smith

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! We hope you and your family have had a lovely break over Easter and that the children are ready to throw themselves into the last term of Year Five- time has really flown by! Thank you for your continued support as we embark on the next few weeks.

### **Reading**

Your child should continue to fill in their reading diary with a record of their daily reading. These are checked regularly and it is essential that they are looked after. The children understand that they take it home every day and bring it back to school the next day having recorded the reading they have done that evening. There are times when they will be recording in it in school and it is the expectation that they read at home each night.

If you are able to find time to read with your child and particularly share thoughts on a book, discussing language, punctuation, characters' reactions, plot etc. they would benefit enormously. Please feel free to record any positive comments you have about your child's reading in their reading diary. This is a book for your use too and we do enjoy reading your views.

### **Homework**

Although we feel that homework should not be arduous, we believe that it is an important exercise in teaching the children skills of organisation and independence. It provides them with an opportunity to take responsibility for their own learning, preparing them for what lies ahead.

Along with approximately twenty minutes of reading which we expect them to do each evening, whether it's with you or independently, we will usually set one piece of Maths and one piece of English homework a week which should take no longer than an hour to complete. Generally, the activities will be given on a Wednesday, and we will expect homework books, containing completed homework tasks, in on Tuesday.

As last term, homework tasks will be uploaded to Google Classroom. It will be clearly indicated and accessible via your child's login. The children may print the homework task and stick the sheets into their book or they may answer set questions directly into their yellow book. If your child has any questions about their homework, please encourage them to ask for help before the due date; we are more than happy to assist.

The children will also be given their weekly spelling list as an assignment on Spelling Shed. Please encourage your child to practise the games available to them at least four times in the week. They may prefer to write out their spellings on paper and this is absolutely fine. In addition, please continue to work on the term's Spelling Stars. Please help your child to learn these on a regular basis to ensure that by the end of term their 'Spelling Star' certificate can be awarded. These are set as an additional assignment on Spelling Shed so they can practise them on there too.

Please feel free to assist your child with homework tasks but often they will be consolidation activities which, for the most part, they should be able to complete independently. Presentation is an important element of completing written homework successfully so this is an area you may wish to monitor. Do ensure they are following the handwriting policy, joining letters and making them of consistent size. Headings should be underlined and dates recorded. Homework should be completed in pencil or using a handwriting pen with blue ink. Biro's are discouraged.

### **P.E.**

P.E. is timetabled for Monday and Tuesday. Sports we will be focusing on between now and the end of term include cricket, tennis, athletics and dance. We also look forward to all the opportunities Sports Week and Sports Day will bring! Do refer to the weekly newsletter for when these fall.

Our routine is that on these scheduled P.E days the children come to school in their P.E kit and remain in this for the duration of the day. For outdoor sessions it is important that they have trainers and, on colder days, track suit trousers and tops (a lightweight rain jacket can also be worn if the forecast looks questionable). However, for inside P.E.

lessons, they will need collared t-shirts and shorts. **(Please refer to the school website for P.E. uniform requirements.)** We would be most grateful if you could check regularly that all clothing is marked with your child's name. In order to run the fitness mile when weather and time allows, your child will need suitable running trainers which should be brought into school on Monday and taken home on Friday.

### **Classroom equipment**

All the time we are focusing on developing the children's independence particularly as they approach their final year here before moving up to secondary school. Part of this involves bringing to school, and taking responsibility for, writing equipment. It would be helpful, therefore, if the children were kitted out with items including pencils, a handwriting pen (no biros or cartridge pens, please), a rubber, a sharpener and a 30cm ruler, preferably a rigid one. Lots of children choose to bring in friction pens, which is fine. We do of course have equipment in school but it is good to see the children taking responsibility for bringing their own belongings into the classroom. The space that they have to hang their coats and bags during the day is limited so we would be grateful if you can supervise them in bringing only these essential items to school.

### **Curriculum**

We hope that as the weeks go on your child will talk positively about the things we are doing in class. The curriculum is full and demanding with expectations high but the children always show a keenness to learn.

In English the children will continue to complete weekly comprehension tasks and receive formal spelling and grammar lessons. We will explore a range of genres through reading and writing sessions which will involve the children having a good understanding of narrative, diary writing, instructional writing, along with persuasive texts and poems. This term we will be using Phillip Pullman's 'Clockwork' as our inspiration for writing.

In Maths the term has started with tackling a unit on decimals. This will be followed by position and direction, shape, and converting units of measurement. Please continue to practise the four formal methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division if they are still an area of weakness.

In Science we will be continuing our studies on animals including humans. Our geography topic focuses on the world climate zones, looking at their habitats, ecosystems, biomes and vegetation belts. In computing, we will be learning how to use Scratch to code music, which will include debugging and problem solving. During the second half of the term in history, we will be studying the ancient Greeks and extending this learning into our art lesson where we will be designing and creating clay pots.

As you are aware, the children are learning French with Mrs Pow increasing their vocabulary and fluency. This term your child will continue to play the steel pans in their weekly music lesson. RE will encourage children to consider the qualities of an inspirational person and the effects that person has on wider society, before linking this to the life of Jesus. Our PSHE lessons will focus on citizenship, safety and how our bodies change over time.

The children show a mature approach to upper KS2 and the growth mind-set they have developed continues to benefit their learning experience. We are extremely proud of them.

As always, if you require clarification on anything, please feel free to email the office and arrange a time for us to meet or speak over a phone call.

Yours sincerely,

*Gill Bailie and Amy Buckley*