



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School
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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. We are delighted to report that everything has begun smoothly in Year 5 and we are enjoying working with a class of enthusiastic and motivated students. To ensure things continue to run effectively, we hope the following information is useful and will give you a better picture of how you can help your child to make the most of their penultimate year at Holy Trinity.

Reading

Your child has been given a new reading diary in which they will keep a record of their daily reading. It is an important book and it is essential that it is looked after. The children understand that they take it home every evening 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 at school and it is the expectation that they read at home each evening.

Please encourage your child to record a range of comments rather than focussing on simply summarising the text each time they write an entry. If you are able to find time to read with your child - share thoughts on a book, discuss 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 hearing 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 fifteen 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 **Thursday**, and we will expect homework books containing completed homework tasks in on **Tuesday**. As last year, homework tasks are uploaded to Google Classroom on a weekly basis. It will be clearly indicated and accessible via your child's login. We will ensure the children are told whether they should work directly onto the sheets, or if they should answer set questions directly into their green homework exercise book. Each week we have timetabled time to go through misconceptions that arise in homework as a class.

Presentation is an important element of completing written homework successfully so please support your child in taking pride in the presentation of their work. Do ensure they are following the handwriting policy, joining letters and making them of consistent size. Headings and learning intentions should be underlined and dates recorded. Homework should be completed in pencil or using a handwriting pen with blue ink. Biro's are discouraged.

Children will also be given their weekly spelling list which will follow our online spelling programme, Spelling Shed. Spellings are set, and tested on a **Tuesday**. They should aim to complete at least four practise games. Each term your child will have a set of twenty 'Spelling Star' words to learn. Please help your child to learn these on a regular basis to ensure that by the end of the term their 'Spelling Star' can be awarded.

P.E.

P.E. is timetabled for a **Monday** and **Tuesday** afternoons with our P.E teacher Mr Whittle. The focus this term is on tag rugby and football. 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. Most of our sessions, while the weather remains fine, will be outdoors so it is important that they have trainers and, on colder days, navy track suit trousers and tops. A lightweight raincoat can also be worn in the event of drizzle, as the session will still go ahead. **(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.

Classroom equipment

All the time we are focusing on developing the children's independence. 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. We do of course, have all this equipment in school but it is good to see the children already 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 already they are showing a keenness to learn.

In English the children will 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, newspaper writing, instructional writing, along with persuasive texts and letter formats. This term we will be using J.K Rowling's 'Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone' as our inspiration for writing.

You can support your child in the English curriculum in a number of ways. To stimulate a love of reading, expose him/her to a range of reading material at home. Helping your child to learn the weekly spelling pattern and termly 'Spelling Star' words is crucial, and guiding them in written homework tasks by encouraging them to use a range of punctuation marks appropriately, varying the way they start sentences and praising them when choosing interesting and varied vocabulary will make an enormous difference.

In maths, the term will start off with increasing their knowledge of place value, building up to comparing, ordering and rounding numbers to a million. This year there will be an even greater emphasis on investigative maths in order to deepen their understanding of topics.

In science we will be investigating the properties and changes of materials and our geography topic focuses on how the world is divided up as well as looking at North and South America. In Art they will be studying a diverse range of self-portraits and using mixed media to create their own. Computing focuses on data handling and will involve using and understanding binary code in addition to learning how this is used within space travel.

As always, when using the internet which we will do a lot, the children are reminded of the importance of keeping themselves safe. We will complete lessons on this topic at the start of term and reinforce this message throughout the school year so please help us by doing this at home. During the second half of the term, we will be looking at the ancient Mayan civilisation in our history lessons. In DT, they will be completing a topic called 'Doodlers' which looks at repurposing materials

This year your child will also have the chance to learn how to play the steel pans in their weekly music lesson. The Sikh religion will be explored in RE, modern foreign Languages continue in the form of French lessons delivered by our specialist teacher, and this year we will be using the excellent online platform, 'Kapow' for our studies in PSHE. In PSHE this term, we will cover the topics, Family and Relationships and Health and Wellbeing.

We look forward to teaching your children and hope that we will have a successful year together. In the meantime, if you require clarification on anything, please feel free to speak to us at the end of the school day, or to email the office and arrange a time for us to meet or a phone call.

Yours faithfully,

Gill Bailie and Amy Buckley

Summary of key information:

PE	Monday and Tuesday
Homework	Set each Thursday. Due back in each Tuesday.
Spellings	Set each Tuesday. Tested each Tuesday.