



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. We trust you had a wonderfully relaxing holiday and are now settled back into school routines. 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/homework diary in which they will keep a record of their daily reading. It is a really important note 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. They will of course be making daily entries in school and it is the expectation that they read at home each evening. 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 book. This is a book for your use too and we do enjoy reading your views.

Homework

In their yellow homework book they will record weekly homework tasks they have been set along with due in dates. 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 Thursday or a Friday and we will expect homework books containing completed homework tasks in on Tuesday. Children will also be given their weekly spelling list, usually on a Wednesday, to be tested on the following Wednesday. 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.

Please feel free to assist your child with tasks but often they will be consolidation activities which, for the most part, they should be able to complete independently. Occasionally the homework will be a practical activity but whatever is set, your child will record clear instructions in their book. 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.

P.E.

P.E. is timetabled for Thursday and Friday afternoons so your child will need to have kit in school on these days. This term, the children will be perfecting their football and rugby skills. Most of our sessions, while the weather remains fine, will be outdoors so it is important that they have trainers and, on colder days, track suit trousers and tops. However for inside P.E. lessons, when the weather is poor, they will need 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. Occasionally additional P.E. classes take place on other days when, for instance, sports' providers run taster sessions for the children so it's useful if their kit can remain in school for the week before going home at a weekend for a freshen up. In order to run the daily mile, your child will need suitable running trainers.

Class room 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 biro 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 the children 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, journalistic, diary and instructional writing, along with persuasive texts and letter formats. This term we will be using Michael Morpurgo's 'Kensuke's Kingdom' 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. Along with their reading book, do they ever pick up a newspaper or do you subscribe to a child's magazine? We hope that by talking about, and giving them a variety of texts they will become increasingly enthused and engaged. Helping your child to learn weekly spellings and termly 'Spelling Star' words is crucial and guiding them in writing 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 we will be consolidating our quick recall of multiplication and division facts – the children are being encouraged to work through the times table and competency certificates quickly! Please continue to test your child on times table facts throughout the year. They have started to explore area and perimeter of compound shapes and will move on to converting between units of measurement as well as exploring squared numbers, factors, multiples and primes. They will complete further shape work towards the end of the term involving naming and measuring angles. Fractions, decimals and percentages will also be explored along with reflectional symmetry and reading data from charts. This year there will be an even greater emphasis on investigative maths in order to deepen their understanding of topics. You could help your child greatly by ensuring they can tell the time from a digital and analogue display. Knowing facts related to time i.e. the number of seconds in a minute, hours in a day, days in a year etc. is also valuable.

In science we will continue to explore 'Earth and Space' and our history topic focuses on the Ancient Egyptians. Skills the children learn in art and computing will be used to enhance their study of these topics. As always, when using the internet, which we will do a lot, the children are reminded of the importance of keeping themselves safe. Please help us by continuing to reinforce this message at home.

This year the children will be learning German with Mrs Thandi. To begin with they will be taught how to introduce themselves and practise some basic conversation skills. Then they will be introduced to numbers and colours. As previously mentioned, P.E. sessions will focus on rugby and football skills and this year your child will have the chance to learn how to play the steel pans in their weekly music lesson. The Sikh religion will be explored in RE and our Citizenship Course will take the theme of working together.

Dates for the Diary Related to Yr. 5 (Please see the website for whole school events)

- Friday 5th October-visit to the Henley Literary Festival

We look forward to having an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled in at Parents' Evening in November but in the meantime if you require clarification on anything, please feel free to pop in to see us or catch us on the playground at the end of the day.

Yours faithfully,

Jill Cornwell
Anna Smith

Useful websites:

BBC Bitesize KS2

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/>

Study Ladder

www.studyladder.co.uk

Maths

http://www.transum.org/Software/SW/Starter_of_the_day/

Woodlands Junior Maths, Literacy and Science zones

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/literacy/>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/revision/Science/>

Spelling games

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html>