



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

Welcome to Year 5. I hope you have all had a fantastic break and it is great to see everyone again, having previously worked with many of the children in Year 3. In this letter, I have noted some important details around the organisation and content of the school year which will help to ensure that your child has a successful start in Upper Key Stage 2. It is incredible how quickly the time passes so the next twelve months are important in preparing them for their final year at Holy Trinity. We hope to see the children become increasingly independent and motivated as they take on greater responsibility and challenge.

Reading

Your child will continue using their 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.

If you're able to support your child while reading at home, questions about **an author's choice** of linguistic techniques such as alliteration and metaphors is a great way to build a complete toolkit for our creative writing. Looking at **punctuation** and grammar within a text as well as encouraging them in **fast-paced** searches for specific words **on a book page**, is also a great way to support reading as well as SPaG fluency.

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, **each of which should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete**. If you have spent any more than this time, please feel free to write a note in books and finish at that given point in the work.

Generally, the activities will be given on a **Friday**, and we will expect homework books containing completed homework tasks in on **Wednesday**. 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 homework exercise book. Each week we have a timetabled slot to go through misconceptions that arise in homework.

Homework is designed to **consolidate learning** from the week and to **develop fluency** within a certain topic. This may result in homework being completed faster than a 30-minute window allows, which would indicate great understanding of a topic. On these occasions, can you encourage your child to delve further, particularly when homework may be a project **researching** a topic or building items for a group project?

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 **Friday**. They should aim to complete at least five practice games. They may prefer to write out their spellings on paper and this is absolutely fine. Each term your child will also 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 scheduled for a **Monday** and **Tuesday** afternoons with Mr Whittle. 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

tracksuit trousers and tops. Please note, black items are not permitted. 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

Classroom equipment remains the same as it was across the previous two-year groups. A pencil case containing blue writing pens, pencils, eraser, highlighter, 30cm ruler and a pencil sharpener are all appreciated. The school will provide equipment where required, however full pencil cases allow us to work seamlessly through the day without interruptions.

Curriculum

In English this term, we will complete weekly comprehension tasks and formal grammar lessons.

We will explore a range of genres through reading and writing sessions which will involve narratives, news reports, letter writing as well as 'cold writing' tasks which will allow creativity to shine!

This term we will specifically be using **J.K. Rowling's** 'Harry Potter and the **Philosopher's Stone**' as our inspiration for writing – we are all very **excited to be reading it!**

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 patterns 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. Neat presentation using joined up (cursive) handwriting is the expectation.

In maths, our term will start with place value, building up to comparing, ordering and rounding numbers to a million. We will be looking at arithmetic questioning **alongside** reasoning and problem solving as two distinct subject skills.

In science we will be investigating the properties and changes of materials and our geography topic focuses on how the world is divided up. We will also take a look at North and South America.

In Art we will be studying a diverse range of self-portraits and the children will be using mixed media to create their own work.

Computing focuses on online safety and the internet before moving onto data handling which 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 and modern foreign languages continue in the form of French lessons delivered by our specialist teacher. We will be using the excellent online platform, 'Kapow' for our studies in PSHE. In PSHE this term, we will cover the topics, Our minds and bodies; and the importance of healthy relationships.

Attendance:

In line with the DfE, it is our aim that the attendance of pupils at our school is as close to 100% as possible.

An attendance figure of less than 90% (**which equates to a child missing half a day of school every week**) is significant; in these circumstances, a child is classified as** persistently absent**.

While we understand that there are genuine reasons, notably illness, which mean it is not appropriate to send your child to school, as I am sure you can appreciate, any time away from the classroom is incredibly disruptive. A lesson missed puts a child at a disadvantage especially when that lesson falls within a sequence of planned learning activities. It can increase anxiety and in some cases affect social interactions and friendship groups.

In addition, research has been carried out which shows a clear link between attendance and attainment at all key stages: The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year In summary, from the data analysed: at KS2, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time.** This means missing just 10 days of Year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%.** Pupils who attended nearly every day were 1.8 times more likely to achieve the standard than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 -6 weeks more time in school).

The trend continued into Year 11: at KS4, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.9 times more likely to achieve the Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time (relating to up to 2 weeks more time in school over the course of a year) and 3 times more likely than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 - 6 weeks more time in school). **This means missing just 10 days of year 11 reduced the likelihood of achieving grade 5 in English and Maths by around 50%.**

Therefore, we encourage you to send your child to school unless they have a temperature, are vomiting, have diarrhoea or any of the contagious illnesses as outlined in NHS guidance: Is my child too ill for school? - NHS

A request for term time absence for holidays is not permitted. Please refer to the RBWM term time dates that are on our website and that you have been sent a copy of, when booking holiday: School term dates 2026/27 | School term dates | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Punctuality:

Arriving promptly in the morning is also important as it will ensure a positive start to the day for your child. The school gate opens at 8:45am **with the expectation that every child has passed through by 8:55am**. The gate will be locked at 9am at which point your child will be marked late.

For a child arriving late, entering a classroom where their peers have already begun the day can be trauma-inducing. Their start to the day is less calm and it is likely they will miss out on early morning activities designed to recap, motivate and engage. Therefore, we encourage you to ensure your child arrives at school as close to 8:45am as possible.

We hope this is helpful but once again, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact – we will endeavour to call you if you send an email to office@holytrinitysch.co.uk. Alternatively, as part of our open-door policy, please feel free to catch us at the end of the day at pick-up.

While this is a class newsletter containing specific information relevant to our class, on a Friday the school newsletter will be emailed to you and posted on our website. Please find a moment to read the weekly newsletter as it will contain important information to help you navigate the term. Thank you.

I am looking forward to our successful year together. In the meantime, if you require clarification on anything, please feel free to speak to me at the end of the school day, or to email the office with any queries.

Yours faithfully,

Ben Reynolds and the Year 5 Team

Summary of key information:

PE	Monday and Tuesday
Homework	Set each Friday. Due each Wednesday.
Spellings	Set each Friday. Tested each Friday.