

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to Year 5!

We have had a brilliant Autumn term and despite the changes in teaching staff, the children have adapted incredibly well. Both Miss Peeks and Ms Bowers are extremely excited to be starting the Spring term with year 5. We look forward to welcoming the New Year with lots of enthusiastic learners and positive attitudes. **Here is some useful information about what will be happening in Year 5 over the Spring term:**

Topic

We are excited to be focusing on ‘**A Blast from the past**’ this half term. Within this theme, we will be exploring the ancient Kingdom of Benin and how it came to thrive. We will also be creating our own artwork inspired by the Benin Civilisations.

In science, we will be looking at changes that human beings experience as they develop to old age as well as the life cycle of a human being.

After half term, our topic is ‘**Fascinating forces!**’ where we will explore the effects of gravity on objects.

Homework

This term’s homework grid will be uploaded onto Microsoft Teams on Friday 7th January. It will contain a variety of tasks for your children to complete in any order they choose. Books will be collected on a Friday when we will have our ‘homework gallery’ where children can share their hard work with their classmates and the adults. Please do encourage your child to do **their best work** that is neatly presented and of a good quality.

Statutory spellings

A list of statutory spellings for year 5 & 6 will also be uploaded onto Microsoft Teams along with the homework grid. These are a list of key words that children need to learn by the end of the year, so regularly practising at home will help! To help, use different strategies that we will be using in school like, write the word as many times as possible in a minute, rainbow writing, box the tricky part of the word, Look-say-cover-write, draw a picture with the word, and pyramid writing.

Healthy Snacks – Fruit and water

Please ensure your child comes to school with a clearly named water bottle containing water only. As part of our healthy eating initiative, do ensure that your child has a **piece of fruit or some vegetables** as a snack for morning break (avoiding crisps/biscuits/sweets/chocolate). Many thanks for your support with this.

PE

Our PE day is on **Monday and Wednesday**, please **send your child to school wearing their PE kit**. The PE kit includes a white, plain t-shirt, black shorts or joggers, a black zip up top and trainers/pumps.

Reading

Children will have opportunities to read in school (though whole class reading sessions, reading with the teacher and independent reading), but we would very much appreciate your support with encouraging them to read daily at home, ideally to an adult. This will inspire a love of reading and has proven and significant benefits to children's academic performance. In KS2, there is a move from the mechanics of reading to comprehension. Therefore, when reading with them, ask questions to check their understanding, particularly focusing on:

- Retrieval questions (i.e. where you have to find the answer/information from the text)
- Inference questions (i.e. where it doesn't explicitly say the answer in the text, you use the clues and information to create an answer, for example why something is said or done)

Maths

Our focus for this half term is fractions on Monday to Wednesday with Miss Peeks, then multiplication and division with Ms Bowers on Thursday and Friday. Providing your child with real life contexts at home is always a helpful way to improve their understanding of fractions. You can also support their learning through an instant recall of their times tables and divisions up to 12 x 12.

Finally, if you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you!

We're all really looking forward to the term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 5 Team

Miss Peeks and Ms Bowers supported by Mrs Kushtar and Ms.H