



St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

Friday 9th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 5!

Wow – what a great start to the year the class have had! They all looked so smart coming into school on Monday morning – thank you for ensuring they all had the correct uniform. It has been great to meet so many of you already and I look forward to meeting more of you over the next few weeks.

We have launched our whole school focus of London with Years 5 and 6 learning about Victorian London using the Monopoly board as a stimulus. Our topic has two names... 'Please Sir, Can I have some more...?' and 'London, Baby' as we couldn't choose just one! We started the topic with a London based story in assembly, playing Monopoly in class and researching some of the places from the board game. Accompanying this letter is a detailed Topic Map which shows which aspects of the curriculum will be addressed within this exciting new topic.

P.E:

Each week, the children will have **PE sessions** on **Wednesdays** and a **Swimming session** on a **Friday morning** (please see separate swimming letter). Please help them to remember the appropriate kit they need for each session. For PE, the children should have, in a named PE bag, the following items: a plain white t-shirt, a pair of blue or black shorts, a pair of blue, grey or black joggers, a blue, black or grey sweatshirt, and a pair of sports trainers (not Converse type shoes please!) Children with earrings will need to remove them independently for all PE sessions – a little container to keep them in would be useful on PE days! It is best if the children bring their P.E. kit in on a Monday and take it home on a Friday as we may have to change P.E. days due to other events some weeks.

Swimming:

On Fridays, please could the children come in to school with their swimming kit on underneath their school uniform as this will ensure the children get changed quickly and receive as much time as possible in the water. The children will need: swimming costume/ trunks, swimming hat, towel and please remember to pack underwear! Goggles are optional.

Class DoJo:

In Key Stage 2 we use a website called 'Class Dojo' which enables staff to award points to children. They can earn points for hard work, good attitude towards learning, helping others etc. If you haven't already, please register on the website and join the class. When your child is awarded points, you will be alerted so you can praise them when they get home from school. There is a message option on Class Dojo with which you can send me messages, however, as a school we have decided to not use this and ask you to continue to contact the office if you need to speak to us or pop in and see me before or after school.



In Year 5 there is a greater expectation with regards to **homework**. There are four elements to the homework in Year 5;

- 1) Each child has a **Reading Journal** which they will need to have in school every day. At the back of the journal there is space to record the reading your child does. I would like each child to record their reading at least FIVE times each week (not including the reading they record in school). In addition, the children should choose 1 activity a week from the homework sheet and complete it in their reading journal.
- 2) Each child will be set tasks to help them practise the **Maths skills** we have been learning in class using the 'MyMaths' online resource. Please let me know if, for any reason, your child cannot access these tasks from home. There will also be Speed Maths homework where the children will be working on quick recall of different information and calculations e.g. multiplication facts and number bonds.
- 3) There is an increased focus on spelling in the new curriculum which we will be looking at in class. Please encourage your children to learn their spellings, which will usually be on a weekly basis.
- 4) For a few of the topics during the year there will be a more **open ended, creative task** to complete, usually related to our topic work. More details to follow.

Clarinets

Year 5 are extremely lucky as we have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, in lessons which are taught by specialists from Oxfordshire's Music service. There is no charge to you for these sessions which will happen on a Monday afternoon. The clarinet teacher is called Miss Caroline Swan, who the children have briefly met already. Next Monday the children will be given a clarinet which they will be allocated for the year. They will be able to take the clarinet home once they have returned the consent form. Please encourage your child to practise the clarinet each week as they will then make greater progress within the sessions.

Helping Out in Year 5

We really welcome any offers of help to support our learning in Year 5; specifically, we would really like any parent helpers who could come in and listen to the children read. Please do not feel you have to come in every week if you volunteer, just turn up as and when you can and we will allocate you children to listen to. We also need occasional help when we go out on local trips. Please come and speak to us if you can help – we really do appreciate it!

Term 1 Y5 dates:	Wednesday 14 th September	Parent Drop In – 3pm-4pm
	Saturday 24 th September	Autumn Fair
	Friday 7 th October	Science workshops (swimming still on)
	Friday 14 th October	Harvest Celebration
	Thursday 20 th October	Open Afternoon

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns or send us an email via the 'office' email account – office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Colbourne (Class teacher) and Mrs Perry (Class teaching assistant)

(Year 5 Team)