



St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

Friday 21st October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow – where has this term gone? I cannot believe it has actually been 7 weeks since we started back at school – it has literally flown by! What a brilliant term Year 5 have had! The children have settled in really well and have produced some stunning work such as their Victorian workhouse diary entries and their William Morris inspired art work this week. Well done Year 5 – what a great start to the year it has been!

As we have now finished our Victorian topic (some of the work will be continuing into next term as the children have asked for this, such as our class reader 'Street Child') we are going back even further in time to the Romans with our 'Roman Around!' topic. We will be learning about their lifestyle, houses, buildings, food as well as other aspects of daily life. We are planning on using a piece of Computing software called 'Sketch-Up' to create our own 3D Roman buildings following our visit to Chedworth Roman Villa and the Corinium Museum. In Science we will be continuing to learn about Charles Darwin and then discover about micro-organisms, particularly focusing on the importance of washing our hands before cooking! Our Literacy work will be largely centred around the myth 'Romulus and Remus'. As we edge closer towards December we will obviously be thinking about Christmas(!) and looking at how it is celebrated around the world.

Following on from the success of Art week, we will be having a Maths week during the first week back after half term.

P.E:

Thank you for ensuring the children have their P.E. kit in school when they need it. As it is getting colder, please ensure they have jogging bottoms (blue, black or grey) and a sweatshirt (black or grey). 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.

Class Dojo:

Hopefully you are finding the information on Class Dojo useful. The children have responded to the points being awarded really well and seem to particularly enjoy awarding points to me! As a reminder, the children can earn points for hard work, good attitude towards learning, helping others etc. You should be alerted on your phone/ computer when your child has been awarded points. If you haven't already, please register on the website and join the class. I use the class stories part of the website to post reminders such as when to bring clarinets in so be sure to look there regularly. N.B. 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.

Clarinets

The class are doing so well with the clarinets and have already learnt 3 different notes, what they look like on the stave, information about time signatures and the different note lengths. Please encourage your child to practise the clarinet each week as they will then make greater progress within the sessions. A couple of reminders from Miss Swan: left hand at the top, lick the reed before playing, cover the holes of the relevant keys completely and press the magic button when assembling and disassembling the clarinets. (This should make sense to the children, however, please remind them of these.)



Homework reminder:

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 (Coming home from next term)
- 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. (Coming home from next term)
- 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.

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 2 Y5 dates:

31st October – INSET day
8th and 10th November – Parents' Evenings
22nd November – Chedworth Roman Villa trip
23rd November – Panto time!
14th December 2.00pm – Carol Concert at St Mary's Church

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)