



St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

Monday 11th September 2017

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 last week – 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.

Last week we were really busy during our 'Purple Learning Week' where we thought about how to be the best learners we can be. We learnt more about our brains and how amazing they are! We reminded ourselves about the neurons and how they work to help us get better at things, the more we try. One of the activities we did was making neurons out of biscuits and sweets – eating them afterwards was a particular highlight! In groups we thought about what we need to do when we are finding things tricky and wrote top tips and motivational quotes on paper brains which are on display to remind us when things get tough!

Today we have launched our whole school topic of 'Making a Splash' thinking about water. As a class we are learning about India and the importance of water within one of the religions, Hinduism. We will be learning about the River Ganges so have decided to call the topic 'The Mighty Ganges' as it really is amazing! Accompanying this letter is a detailed topic map which shows which aspects of the curriculum will be addressed within this exciting new topic. Details about trips will follow nearer the time.

P.E:

Each week this term, the children will have a **PE session on Friday** with Jennie, a qualified dance coach, who is teaching them some traditional Indian dances such as Bollywood. The children will also have a **Swimming session on a Tuesday** (please see separate swimming letter sent out last week). 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.**

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 attitudes towards learning, helping others etc. Huge thanks to those of you who have managed to sign in to the class page already. If you haven't already, please register on the website and join the class. If you have any problems joining, please let me know asap. I use Class Dojo a lot to share information, photos, reminders etc... so it would be great to have everyone on there if possible. 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 not to 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 **homework book** which they will need to have in school every day. At the back of the book 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). I aim to check their reading everyday so please ensure their book is in school every morning. In addition, the children should choose 1 activity a week from the homework sheet and complete it in their reading journal. This needs to be handed in on a Tuesday.
- 2) There will be Maths homework each week. This will sometimes be on the MyMaths website (I will remind children of their login details), other websites, sheets or other activities. I will tell the children when they have this and when it is due in. I will also post about it on Class Dojo.
- 3) There is an increased focus on spelling and grammar 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. We will focus on different patterns and spelling rules such as 'ough' sounds etc. The children will sometimes get grammar homework too to help them learn what we are focusing on in class.
- 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 Wednesday afternoon, starting next week. During their first lesson, 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 which will come home soon. 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:	Thursday 14 th September	Parent Drop In – 3pm-4pm
	Saturday 30 th September	Autumn Fair
	Friday 13 th October	Harvest Celebration
	Monday 16 th October	Art Week
	Thursday 19 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 Brotherton (Class teaching assistant)

(Year 5 Team)