



St John's Primary School

St John's Road, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 9AG Tel: 01491 837305 Email: office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk
Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 5!

We hope you all had a good break over the summer holidays. It has been so lovely to welcome all of the children back to school, and they have already made a great start to the new year. We have started our topic of Extreme Earth by exploring the book "Escape from Pompeii" by Christina Balit and thinking about what life was like before the famous eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Please see the attached Topic Grid for further information on the learning for this topic. We have been really impressed by how well the children are settling into the new routines this year – they have been brilliant!

This letter is a 'Guide to Year 5' so will hopefully include lots of helpful information for you as we begin our Year 5 journey!

Mrs Colbourne will be teaching the class 4 days a week this year (Tuesday-Friday). Mrs Burgess will be teaching the class on a Monday morning, with Mrs Newland Smith currently teaching on Monday afternoons. The Year 5 staff team work closely together to ensure that there is consistency for the children throughout the week.

P.E

PE lessons will be held outside wherever possible this term. The children will have PE on a Tuesday. Please could they ensure they bring their PE kit in on a Monday and take it home on a Friday so we can do PE at other times across the week, depending on the weather.

PE Kit consists of:

- 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 (not a 'hoody' style top please)
- 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. If your child cannot remove them on their own, please ensure they do not wear them on PE days.

Forest School

Year 5 will have their Forest School sessions on a Thursday afternoon. The children need to come to school in their uniform and bring their Forest School kit with them. Please ensure they have appropriate clothing i.e. long sleeved tops, trousers (not shorts) and wellies/ walking boots. On wet days, they will also need waterproofs.

Class Dojo:

We will be using 'Class Dojo' to award points to children. They can earn points for hard work, good attitudes towards learning, helping others etc. Hopefully you are all familiar with Class Dojo already and can access the Year 5 page, but if you have any queries about it, please let us know. We will continue to use Class Dojo to share information, photos, reminders etc. so it would be great to have all parents accessing it if possible. If you do not wish us to share photos of your child on the Year 5 Class Dojo page, please let us know ASAP.



Homework

There are four elements to the homework in Year 5;

- 1) **Reading:** Your child has a yellow reading record book which will need to be in school every day. We would like each child to record their reading at least FIVE times each week (not including the reading they record in school), for at least 15 minutes each time, which will need to be signed by a parent/guardian/responsible adult. The Reading Records will be looked at, by a member of staff, once a week (most likely a Friday). Reading can include chapter books, comics, recipes, instructions for building something and so on. We would like to encourage the children to read a wide range of texts.
- 2) **Reading journal:** In addition to the recording of reading work mentioned above, we would also like the children to do 1 activity a week linked to something they have read. Please find the reading journal activities attached. They can choose to do the activities in any order and can repeat ones they have already done. It would be good to see the children completing a range of tasks. The activities should be done in their green reading journal book and handed in on a Friday to be checked by an adult.
- 3) **Spelling:** Later in the term I will introduce the following homework: We will be learning lots of different spelling patterns and rules during the year, as well as the Statutory Spelling Lists. The children will be given their new spellings on a Friday to learn for the following Friday. The children should play 10 games on Spelling Shed for their spelling work to help them learn their spellings.
- 4) **Maths:** Later in the term I will introduce the following homework: We would like the children to spend at least 15 minutes on the Times Table Rockstars website, 4 x a week. Having a quick recall of times table facts is so important and really does help unlock lots of different areas of Maths for the children – please help them to develop a quick recall of these facts.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. You can email Mrs Colbourne and Mrs Burgess via the school office email account, office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk.

We are really looking forward to our year with your lovely children!

Yours sincerely,

The Year 5 team

Mrs Colbourne, Mrs Burgess, Mrs Hill, Mrs Newland-Smith and Mrs Johansen