

Dear Parent (s)/Carer (s),

Welcome back to school after what has been an unusually lengthy break! The first few weeks back at school have been lovely, it is heart-warming to see children back in the classroom once again. The children have transitioned seamlessly back into school life and we are all excited for the coming year. I am incredibly lucky to be teaching this class who I was able to get to know last year. Myself and Mrs Kerry- another familiar face- are looking forward to supporting the children and anticipate an excellent year ahead.



Year 5 Expectations

As the children have made the move into upper Key Stage 2, there is an increase in the expectations in Year 5. This is an important year for them to develop in confidence; both in the curriculum and wider school life. I am confident that this class is capable of rising to the challenges set out for them.

At the top end of the school, we expect Year 5 children to begin to set an example and act as role models for those children in younger year groups. The children will be expected to work hard and concentrate fully during lessons to achieve their best potential. We ask that all children take pride in their work and work to the best of their ability. In addition to this, our current curriculum sees us based outdoors for a lot of our lessons. To ensure these lessons can run smoothly and children are able to focus on their learning, we ask that your child arrives prepared to be outside, regardless of the weather.

Autumn Term Curriculum

The curriculum has changed slightly this year with a focus on key skills in spelling, grammar and punctuation, reading, handwriting, writing, arithmetic and times tables. These lessons are timetabled into the week in short burst with physical activities in between. We are taking part in daily P.E., a change which has been very popular with the children so far! As well as this, we aim to spend as much time as possible learning outside. We are lucky to have a lot

of outdoor space at All Souls', including our Forest School area, and we plan to make the most of this in Year 5. The children will be taught Science at least once a week, our first topic is 'Life Cycles'. On a Monday morning, the children receive their R.E. lesson with Mrs Hands, the first topic this year is 'Creation'. In the afternoon, Mr Youson leads a P.E. lesson, followed by an art lesson with Miss Quinn and Mrs Kerry.

Reading

Reading is an incredibly important homework and in Year 5 it is expected that children read for a minimum of 15 minutes every day outside of school. As we are trying to limit the number of items coming in and out of school, children have, for the time being, not been provided with the usual reading record. Children will therefore need to be even more organised, mature and independent in ensuring that they are reading both regularly, and a wide variety of literature. I ask for your support in encouraging, monitoring and taking an interest in your child's reading. If your child is still on the school reading scheme, as opposed to them taking one book home at a time, we will be issuing them with several books to take home in one go. These books should only be returned when they have all been read which is, again, to reduce the frequency of items travelling in and out of school. There will be a 'drop box' in the classroom for children to return books to so that they can be fully disinfected before being put back on the shelves. Children who are no longer on the school reading scheme and therefore classed as 'free readers' will choose a book from the class library to read in school and may also take home a selection to read there – should they not have their own books at home. Again, these should be returned when they are all finished and not one at a time. We are dedicating a lot of time at school to reading both independently with their choice of book from the class reading corner, and as a class, reading our class book 'Kensuke's Kingdom'.

Trips

At present, Year 5 have two trips planned for before half term. These are a disc golf trip to an outdoor course in Leamington and a shelter building lesson at Coombe Abbey Park. Please be assured, the school's COVID guidelines will be adhered to on these trips and the safety of the children and adults taking part are a high priority. I feel these trips will benefit the children greatly, building their confidence and independence as well as allowing them to explore areas outside of school.

Key Diary Dates

Wednesday 23rd September & Wednesday 30th September – **Disc golf trip**

Tuesday 13th - Wednesday 14th October – **Virtual Parents' Evening**

Wednesday 21st October- **Shelter building trip to Coombe Abbey (letter to be sent home shortly)**

Saturday 24th October – Sunday 31st October- **Half Term**

Saturday 19th December – Monday 4th January – **Christmas Break**

I look forward to speaking with you at our virtual open evening in October. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please send me and email: aimee.piercy@allsoulsschool.co.uk .

Many Thanks,

Ms Piercy

Year 5 class teacher

Mrs Kerry

Year 5 teaching assistant