



Year 5 Curriculum Letter
Autumn Term 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter is to provide you with information about the work your children will be doing this term.

English:

The children will learn most of their formal English in small matched level groups using the Junior English programme. This programme enables your children to enjoy high quality pieces of literature which extends their vocabulary and comprehension and grammar skills. Once a week the children will write an extended piece inspired by the literature they have been studying. Junior English enables us to raise our standards in writing and therefore offers us the potential to raise standards across the whole curriculum. The strength of the programme lies in the belief that children should be exposed to high quality literature, and to a broad range of new and exciting vocabulary.

It is expected that children will read a variety of books both at home and in school. Children have access to books in school which they may take home. We also have matched abilities guided reading groups daily where the children will have the opportunity to read and discuss a range of classic children's texts with their teacher. The children will also have the opportunity to change their library book on a regular basis, as well as take a class book home each week. All children have a Reading Record that you should complete each time your child reads to you. This is an excellent way for us to track how much supported reading the children are doing with an adult. As the ability to read fluently is the key to all learning, we ask that you aim to read with your child for a short period of time each evening. You will also find a recommended reading list attached to this letter with stimulating titles for your child to read.

Speaking and Listening:

Children will have opportunities to talk to build their speaking and listening skills through a range of planned activities, such as Partner Talk, drama, Big Writing and Philosophy. The latter is an excellent opportunity for the children to actively participate in a discussion on a range of topics, which has a profound effect on their spoken English. They will also be given the opportunity to talk about their work in other areas of the curriculum, especially to discuss ways in which they can improve their work.

Maths:

Following the National Curriculum children will be prepared with the appropriate skills to develop and progress in line with, and exceed National expectations. The Maths team have devised a robust medium term plan for each year group using a variety of resources from the best mathematics schemes available, including MMS, Singapore Maths, Rising Stars and Bond's No Nonsense Maths. From this, teachers are able to plan succinct lessons, personalising learning in each of the areas of Maths (Number, Measure, Geometry and Statistics). In Number this term the children will expand their knowledge of using column subtraction and addition techniques, as well as identifying multiples and factors and learning about square and cube numbers. In Measure this term the children will recap the various units of measuring mass, volume and length, as well as converting these units to solve problems. In Geometry the children will be identifying 3D shapes including cubes and cuboids from 2D representations.

Science: We are pleased to inform you we have updated our curriculum to promote the children's awe and wonder of the sciences. The children will have two science lessons each week. One will focus on topic theory or recording experiments; the second will be enquiry based, with the children actively encouraged to independently design experiments to prove their own predictions or hypotheses on a given topic. We shall

be encouraging the children to take risks (I'm not sure if this will work, but I'm going to try!) and question outcomes: how, what, why, when, where?

This half term, the children will be learning about circulation and respiration, which has strong links to PE.

Each child in Year 5 has been given a list of the key vocabulary for this unit, to pre-learn and research.

ICT:

As part of the Computing Curriculum, children will be learning how to use and construct basic computer programmes using algorithms. After developing this basic knowledge, we will be designing and creating our own computer games using 'Scratch' software. Children will alternate between using laptops in the classroom and the school's Mac suite. In addition to ICT lessons, children have the opportunity to use other ICT equipment on a daily basis, including class desktop computers, Interactive White Boards and visualizers.

Religious Education:

In RE this term the children will be exploring Judaism and comparing some of the important features with Christianity. There will be a strong focus on the rules for living and light as a symbol. We will also think about how important these aspects are in Jewish life and how they compare and link to Christianity.

Music:

The children will be travelling on an exciting musical journey using our new music software with the most up-to-date musical technologies. Learning to sing new songs, the children will become familiar with basic elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre).

Children will also develop their musical theory skills, including basic notation.

History:

The children will be discovering about 18th Century Britain, focusing on the union between Scotland and England. We will also be studying the history of British Politics, in particular the development of party politics, and the development of the office of Prime Minister. After half term, we will be studying how the British Empire developed in the second half of the 18th century.

Geography:

The children will look at spatial sense, which will help them to develop an understanding of maps, including topographic maps using contour and Hachure lines to show elevation and depression. We will develop our knowledge of latitude and longitude, grid references and time zones. After half term we will be studying Mountains of the World, including locating key mountain ranges and learning different types of mountain.

If you have any old maps, please show them to your child!

Art:

The children will be focusing on developing their language of Art. In order to do this they will be looking at a variety of artists and styles and creating their own pieces of work based on their favourite styles. In the second of term, we will study Islamic Art and architecture.

PE:

In outdoor PE this term children will be participating in many fun Invasion Games such as Netball, Basketball & Football. Indoor PE will be the continuing the development of gymnastic and dance skills.

PE Days: Tuesday and Friday - Amethyst. Monday and Tuesday - Rose

Please ensure that your child has their PE kits in school. (Yellow T-shirt and navy shorts, navy or black jogging bottoms for outdoor PE). Please ensure that your child has jogging bottoms in their PE bag – outside PE will take place unless there are adverse weather conditions. No earrings or watches should be worn on PE days.

Read Aloud:

The Read Aloud 2017 initiative was launched in February 2017, and encourages children and their parents to read aloud for at least 15 minutes each day. Children will record the minutes they read each night on a reading record that will be sent home. Reading plays an integral part of your child's learning so get involved!

Homework:

Following our change in policy, homework will not be sent home regularly each week. Some children may receive targeted homework, but most children will receive spellings and library books to take home. We encourage you to work together with them on these. If you are searching for additional tasks please refer to your child's pupil profile targets for personal focus areas. Times tables are also a focus for the whole school, and practise at home really helps.

Book bags and water bottles must be brought into school every day. Please name all items of your child's clothing and equipment as this makes it much easier to return lost or misplaced items.

Parental Involvement:

There are many ways you can help and support your child's learning at home. This may involve reading stories, listening to their reading, visiting the library or taking trips to places of interest, like museums. You could also help by encouraging them to discuss what they have been doing both in and out of school.

If you are unable to collect your child from school please inform the class teacher or school office who will be collecting your child.

If you wish to discuss any of the subjects in this letter, class teachers are available at the end of every school day or to make an appointment, please telephone the school office.

Thank you for your continued support

Halide Garip and Robert Shannon

Year 5 Teachers

Useful websites to use at home with your children:

www.primaryresources.co.uk

www.stockton.gov.uk

www.bbc.co.uk

English (Reading, writing & SPAG): <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>

Grammar: <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=47>

Root words: <https://www.learnthat.org/pages/view/roots.html>

English questions: <https://uk.ixl.com/ela/year-6>

Etymology (the original meaning of words): <http://www.etymonline.com/>

Maths (Algebra and Reasoning: Number, shape, data): <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>

Maths tutorials, exercises and worksheets: <http://mathantics.com/>

Maths questions: <https://uk.ixl.com/math/year-6>