

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new school year. Please find included in this letter some of the information that we trust you will find useful and informative throughout this year. As ever, we have high expectations of the children in terms of their learning, behaviour and dress. The children may find the expectations a little challenging at first, but together we will support them in meeting these with increased independence.

Topics covered this year

This year, we are excited to start our new curriculum consisting of 5 main topics. In the autumn term, we will study Ancient Greece and sustainable development as our two main topics. This will be followed by a longer module in the spring term in which we will become anthropologists and learn all about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Then, in the summer term, we will explore rivers and mountains before we venture to the moors to become cartographers to study maps in the real world.

Our music, history, geography, art and design and technology lessons will be linked to our core topics mentioned above. The children will become keen scientists as they are immersed in topics including animals – including humans, properties and changes of matter, Earth & space, forces and magnets and living things and their habitats.

Other foundation lessons, such as RSHE, RE, computing and P.E, will be taught weekly or in blocks at the end of each term when full days will be devoted to the subject.

PE days

Your child will have P.E. on a Monday and Friday. Please ensure that they come to school wearing the correct kit on these days. The kit list can be found on the school website.

Homework and expectations

During the week, we expect your child to read a minimum of three times a week for at least fifteen minutes. Weekly spellings will also be set for children to learn in preparation for tests on a Friday. Home learning will be project based on our current topic in either history or geography. We will be running a homework club on a Monday lunchtime which all children are welcome to attend to complete their homework. Children can access TT RockStars throughout the week to continue refining and practising their skills.

Statutory Tests

In Year 5, the children do not complete government statutory tests; however, we will be completing end of term assessments in reading, maths, punctuation and grammar. These tests, alongside our teacher assessments, will allow us to identify children who need support to achieve their learning goals.

How to help your child at home

There are a few things that you can do at home that will make a significant impact on your child's learning in school.

- Regularly reading at home with them and reading out loud can significantly aid their understanding of texts and word recognition. Reading recipes, newspapers, magazines and blogs all count towards your child's weekly goal of reading!
- Spelling tests will happen on a Friday. Practising together will allow them to feel confident when taking their test and support with their overall writing. Children will receive a copy of the spellings along with their home learning which maps out the words and dates across the term.
- We have lots of exciting and interesting learning taking place in school. We look forward to sharing all of your child's exciting learning experiences throughout the year.

Final thoughts

Pencil cases including pens, rubbers, rulers and pencils do not need to be purchased. These are all provided by the school.

Date for drop-in: Wednesday 18th September 2024 in Orca.

Lastly, we would like to invite you for an informal drop-in session on Wednesday 18th September at 3.30pm. This is your opportunity to ask us any questions you may have about the year ahead or just to say hello!

Thank you in advance for your support,

Mr Locke and Miss Cusack

