



Where every child counts

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10/ 9 / 2022

Dear parents,

Firstly, I would like to say welcome to the children in year 5; they are all settling in well and I am really enjoying teaching them. The children seem pleased to be back in school and have coped really well with the start to the term.

This letter will hopefully give you some basic information about year 5 and how we are going to organise things. If there is anything further you wish to ask me, please email on year5@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk – I will try and get back to you ASAP. If you have an urgent message for me, please ring the office and leave a message, or pop in and see me as I do not check the above e-mail address each day. Before and after school I am available for a short chat, but if you need more of my time then we would need to agree a mutually convenient time for a longer appointment.

This year, Mrs Wrixon will teach the class on Tuesdays after maths as usual, teaching the children Spelling, RE and PSHE. On Friday Mrs Joyce will be taking the class all day, teaching the children Grammar, PE and music. As you may have heard, I am currently training to be a counsellor and I will be completing my studies on Fridays and so Mrs Joyce will be covering for me.

Water Bottles

In year 5, the children can bring an extra water bottle that they can keep in class. Please make sure it is labelled with their name. The bottles are stored in a box and the children can leave their seat to get a drink during lessons, once I have stopped talking with the class.

Fidget Toys

Fidget toys are not allowed in class. If you think your child's learning would benefit from having one then please come and see me; in my experience, they tend to be a distraction for most children in lessons and it can lead to upset and arguments when they get lost.

Pencil Cases

We have purchased all the stationary the children will need for the year including their own pencil case so the children do not need another pencil case in school; there will be no room for any extra pencil cases in their trays.

Mobile Phones

If your child brings a mobile phone to school, they must hand it into the office and collect it at the end of the day.

PE

PE lessons are on Monday (outside with our coach Mr Menage learning to play Lacrosse until half term) and Friday (tennis). Your child will need to come to school dressed in their PE kit including their trainers. If it is a cold day, they can wear a track suit top and track suit bottoms over their PE kit to help them keep warm. Once the weather gets cooler and wetter, our Friday lessons will be dance or gymnastics in the hall.

On Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning the children will be completing the 'Fifteen minute' run. Please can they come to school in shoes they can run around in on these days.

Forest School

Forest School will take place each week on Wednesday afternoon up until half term. The children need to wear clothes that they can get a bit muddy and grimy. If the weather is wet, the children will need a rain coat and possibly wellington boots if the ground becomes muddy underfoot.

Homework

The children will have homework as follows

- To read and complete their reading journal, which will be checked each Monday by Mrs Howarth
- Maths homework weekly from Mr Field linked to their targets and 500 points on Mathletics.

There will be other occasional homework from time to time (see below)

HomeTalkSchoolWrite

Each month the children will take part in HomeTalkSchoolWrite. On Monday homework will be sent home. This will normally be a list of questions that you ask your child to help them to talk about a piece of writing. On Friday the children then have the opportunity to write for an extended period using the ideas they have come up with at home. The children will need to return a slip signed by you to show me that they have completed their homework, otherwise they will miss their playtime.

Reading journals and book bags (Please can your child have a book bag)

As usual, this year the children have been given a reading journal. They will keep their reading journal in their book bag along with their current reading book. Children will need to record their reading homework in their reading journal. They will be expected to read at home at least five times a week and record the pages they read and the name of the book in their reading journal. If your child is still a developing reader (below stage 14 on the Oxford read Tree) then you will still need to hear them read regularly. Each Monday, please can you sign their reading journal once to show me that you have been aware of them completing their reading homework during the previous week. Some parents prefer to sign each day that their child reads and that is fine too. The children will be given a colour on the front of their reading journal.

Pink - they have read at least five times, read a substantial number of pages each day and that their journal is signed.

Amber – they have read at least five times and their reading journal has been signed

Green – they have read less than five times in the past week and/or their journal has not been signed.

If they are given the colour green, then the children will miss a playtime.

Book Bags

To ensure that books lent by the school to the children are not damaged we expect each child to have a book bag. This protects library books, is a good place to store letters from school and your child's reading journal.

School Start

I would like to thank all the parents in year 5 for bringing their children to school at the new start time of 8.45. During the first few minutes of the day we share important information so please make sure your child is lined up at 8.45.

The Curriculum

Below are the subjects and topics we will be covering up until Christmas. Our main theme is Ancient Greece. The children will be learning about the two main city states of Sparta and Athens, about ancient Greek beliefs, warfare and culture. As the topic draws to an end, we will examine the legacy of Ancient Greek civilisation including the Olympic games, mathematics and the alphabet. An overview of the curriculum is shown below

English	Stories by classic authors – Kenneth Grahame “The Wind in the Willows” Poetry – Comparing Michael Rosen and Ted Hughes Myths and Legends – Ancient Greece
History	Ancient Greece
RE	Sikhism, Christianity
PE	Tennis, Tag rugby, dance, Lacrosse
Computing	turtle graphics, programming using Logo, using spreadsheets
Music	Developing skills based on the Charanga scheme
Science	Changing materials, Earth in Space
PSHE	Being me in my World, Celebrating Difference
Art	Still life, observational drawing, clay work, abstract art, perspective, line and pattern, Take One Picture Project
French	The weather, musical instruments, likes and dislikes, visiting places.

I have not included maths above as we will be covering the whole of the maths curriculum in each term each time at a harder level. In year 5, the children are taught by Mr Field.

As you can see we have a lot to fit in and the children will be very busy. They will have to work really hard but they will have a lot of fun and really enjoy school. My first impressions are that they will be yet another delightful class to teach.

Finally, on Tuesday 13th September after school, there will be a short meeting in my class, when I will go through this letter and answer any questions you may have. There will also be an opportunity for you talk to me 1:1 if need be after the meeting,

Yours faithfully,

Richard Hull, Ginny Joyce and Lorna Howarth