



**Where every child counts**

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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](mailto: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, Ms Locke will teach the class on Tuesdays after lunch, teaching the children RE and PSHE. On Friday Mrs Joyce will be taking the class all day, teaching the children Grammar, handwriting, history, DT and music.

### **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 and Wednesday this half term and we will be playing tag rugby whilst the field is dry. 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.

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**

At the moment, Forest school are appointing a teacher to come and work with us and it is hoped that will be arranged as soon as possible. Until then, we will have a second PE lesson on a Wednesday afternoon (see above). Once a teacher is appointed, Forest School will take place each week on Wednesday afternoon up until half term (and may be for a week or two afterwards). 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 Miss Bates.
- Maths homework weekly from Mr Field linked to their targets and 500 points on Athletics.

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. Later in the week the children then have the opportunity to write for an extended period drawing upon 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 15 on the Oxford read Tree) then you will still need to hear them read regularly. Each week, probably on Sunday, please can you sign their reading journal at least 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.

If the children do not complete their five reads for the week, I will keep them in at playtime on Tuesday.

### **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 before the 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, everyday life and important people from Ancient Greece. 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
Computing	Programming using Crumble physical devices and Computer Networks
Music	Developing skills based on the Charanga scheme
Science	Changing materials, Earth in Space
PSHE	Being me in my World, Celebrating Difference
Art	Take One Picture project, drawing, painting with watercolours
French	The weather, musical instruments, likes and dislikes, visiting places.
DT	Greek food and Design a labyrinth

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.

### **Stormbreak**

We are introducing a new approach to help children understand their own mental health through movement. A Stormbreak is lasts about five minutes or so and is a chance for the children to move in a fun way in the classroom whilst talking and learning about mental health and well being. This is all quite new to me at the moment as we are just starting to have Stormbreaks at William Barnes but I am looking forward to learning with the children.

### **School Positive Behaviour Policy**

We are currently working on simplifying the school's behaviour policy so that it is more understandable. The staff have come up with four key words – Respectful, Engaged, Tolerant and Democratic to be the foundations of the policy. So far my class have focussed on Respectful and we have agreed that this means that you treat other people as you would like to be treated.

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 Thursday 12th 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, Miss Bates Miss Hargraves