



Year 5 – Orange Class – Autumn Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Year 5 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term and the new academic year! It has been wonderful welcoming back Year 5 into school and our new classroom. We have been greatly impressed by how well they have settled in and adapted to the different routines from the regular hand washing to using designated areas outside for our break and lunch times.

They have had a busy return to school from playing a range of maths games to working on their health and wellbeing by taking part in the daily mile and different exercise routines. Like the rest of the school, we have been using the lovely book, **Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth by Oliver Jeffers**, to engage the class in different types of learning. The class have produced some great poetry and beautiful art work linked their favourite places and their personalities.

They also seemed to have particularly enjoyed writing a letter to their local MP providing ideas on how we can retain some of the benefits experienced during the last few months linked to helping the environment and spending more time outdoors. The class are currently producing short transcripts and videos to decide which endangered animal we should support this year, which will no doubt lead to a lively debate! The enthusiasm of the class for their learning has been evident throughout the last few weeks alongside the rekindling of friendships and their overall happiness for being back in school.

Every class in school has been timetabled with a number of sessions each day in the outside areas in school – the allotment, field, wooded area and playgrounds. We will be using these times to ensure the children get plenty of fresh air and exercise between classroom based learning and we will be teaching outside when this is possible too.

We have a busy term ahead, so here is some key information about the learning topics we have to look forward to.

Curriculum focus

This term we are going to cover a number of shorter topics linked to our learning in history and geography. Our first topic will be focused on the **Anglo-Saxons and Vikings**. We will be learning about the major changes that took place during this period of history and the influence that these invaders had on Britain at that time. The children will: develop their map reading skills to understand where the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings came from and then settled; learn about their clothing, food and drink and Anglo-Saxon settlements; and research key historical figures, such as Alfred the Great, from this period in history.

Maths

Our maths sessions will focus on supporting the children to re-activate their prior learning as well as starting the curriculum for their current year. We will spend the first few weeks on place value and number work as this is so important for supporting other learning later in the year. Other key areas for Year 5 in the Autumn term include rounding of numbers, multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000, and negative numbers. In some of our Chromebook slots the children will keep on using **Times Tables Rockstars** (<https://trockstars.com/>), therefore we would encourage them to continue practising their times tables at home using this game.

English

This term our fiction and non-fiction writing units will all be based on a variety of books. We are using the 'back on track' materials developed by County to support the children with their writing across different genres. We know, from the parent survey results, that this is an area many parents have identified as a focus for children now they are back in school. Our first unit is based on the book **Wolves in the Walls by Neil Gaiman** and as part of this learning the children will be tasked with writing their own sequel to this story.

In Year 5 the children will be taking part in whole class guided reading sessions based around both a class book and shorter fiction and non-fiction texts to support skills including vocabulary development, retrieval, inference and prediction. We are currently reading **Wonder by R. J. Palacio**, which so far at least seems to have been a popular choice. Children will have the opportunity to change their own reading books on a daily basis in the school library.

Science

In Science, we will be focusing on Sound which includes investigating parts of the ear, vibrations, pitch and volume.

As always, we will ensure to support all children's individual needs in a variety of ways. Additional support, individualised learning and interventions will continue in the children's bubbles. We will share any further information if necessary with parents in due course.

PE

In PE this term the initial focus will be on a range of health related exercises covering cardio fitness and flexibility to support the children's overall fitness levels. We have then planned different Outdoor Adventure games to develop the children's skills in problem solving, communication and tactics, and orienteering.

The days for PE lessons this term may change as we take advantage of the weather and lead sessions outside whenever possible. Therefore, it is important that the children have a **full** PE kit with them every day, including a long sleeved top and trainers for outdoor PE work. Children with long hair must remember to bring a hair tie. PE kits will be sent home to be washed at the end of the week and then returned the following Monday. Thank you.

Homework

In line with our homework policy, home learning will focus on reading, spelling and maths skills. We will be setting our first homework task next week and will be using on-line platforms for this. We will remind all parents of any usernames and passwords. Setting our home learning in this way will support in the event of children needing to continue their learning at home.

Unfortunately, for now, there are no class assembly dates. However, we will share with you details and photographs of the children's learning in the whole school newsletters on a regular basis.

I hope that this information is helpful to you, but please do contact us via email or phone if there is anything at all you want to discuss.

Kind regards,

Mr Wootton, Mrs Simmonds and Miss Salam.

The Year 5 Team.

