



September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely holiday. During the past few days the children have all settled into Year 5 really well and I am extremely pleased to be teaching them this year. At this time, I would like to provide you with some information regarding routines, which you may find helpful as the year progresses. In class the children's learning will also be supported by Mrs Chatterton and Mrs Stewart: sharing class TA responsibilities. The children will also benefit from specialist provision for PE, music, art and French.

### **Homework:**

Homework will be set as part of our whole school approach of setting 'un-homework' challenges, meaning that the children will be given some element of choice as to what they do, or how they present their learning.

On a half termly basis, we will alternate whether the focus is on completing topic projects or revising concepts learnt in our core lessons in class. Children should complete one activity per week and present it to the class on a Friday. If possible, encourage your child to record something in their homework book each week (even if their project is a practical one) so that we can see that they are engaging with the tasks. Also, if possible, please email photos, presentations or videos of projects, rather than send them into school as we are trying to minimise the number of items brought in and out of school. Please get involved and talk to them about their work but let them complete it as independently as possible, as we are trying to develop these skills now that they are in Upper Key Stage 2.

Times Tables and related division facts (up to 12x12) will be tested regularly as part of our new whole school Number Fun Club. The children need to know these facts for mental maths work. Please try and allocate a few minutes daily to practise them at home as this will really help. In class we test them orally as well as in a weekly written quiz.

### **Spelling**

The children will be assessed regularly against a list of statutory words from the National Curriculum. This list will be appropriate to their level of development. From this list, we will select a few words that your child finds tricky and set these for them to learn at home. Alongside this, they will be given a couple of spellings that practise the spelling rules taught in class. In the front of their homework books, there will be a few recommendations for ways in which your children can practise their spellings. These will then be tested on a Friday and new spellings will be sent home.

**Reading:**

The children need to be encouraged to read every night. They may have chosen a book from our class library, or one of their own from home. They have been given a reading record to record their progress. Even if the children are fluent readers, it is still very important for you to listen to your child read and for you to read to them too. Don't be afraid to read a picture book as there are some amazing ones out there! I am extremely passionate about encouraging children to develop a love of reading. There is a lot of evidence to support the notion that great readers make great writers.

**PE:**

PE will be on a Tuesday and will be taught by Mrs Annis. Please ensure that kit is left in school all week as there may be changes or additions to the timetable occasionally. Pupils must wear the school PE kit and it would be helpful if it was labelled. Children can wear a tracksuit for the winter months. Jewellery should not be worn at school, apart from one pair of stud earrings. If a child is wearing earrings on a PE day, then these must be covered up (if newly pierced) or not worn for PE.

Spare kit will not be available so if you are struggling for kit please let the school office know.

**Topics:**

Our first topic will be Earth and Space and our driver text is The Wisp by Zana Frallion and Graham Baker-Smith. This is a really exciting and engaging topic with lots of science, geography, history and DT links. In the Spring term our topics will be Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece, with our driver texts being The Happy Prince adapted by Masie Paradise Shearring and Aesop's Fables. In the Summer Term our topic will be Rainforests and we will be reading The Explorer by Katherine Rundell.

**Trips:**

Normally we would organise trips throughout the year, however due to COVID-19 these may not be able to go ahead. For the time being residential trips are not allowed and day trips would rely on enough parental interest. These would of course be subject to change as the year progresses.

**Other:**

As the weather gets cooler, please make sure your child has a suitable coat in school and that it is labelled. Also it is important to make us aware if someone other than yourself is picking your child up from school, or if there are any special arrangements regarding this.

Finally, please do not hesitate to ask any questions following this letter, or indeed throughout the year. If you need to speak to me, please leave a message at the office, by phone; or email [office@holyredeemer.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@holyredeemer.worcs.sch.uk).

Please be aware that we are trying to limit the amount of face to face contact as much as possible, but are happy to arrange phone conversations or answer questions via email. I am looking forward to a very positive year and getting to know our new Year 5s.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Hall