



Welcome to Year 5 and Year 6

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to welcome you to our Year 5 and Year 6 class! I hope that your child enjoys the new challenges and approaches to learning that Upper Key Stage 2 has to offer, including SATS preparation for our Year 6 children. Things are guaranteed to be different this year, but we are excited to begin the new school year.

Our History topic begins with a focus on The Battle of Britain with children also experiencing the wider world in Geography lessons. Please see our curriculum grids on the school website for a more in-depth look at this year's topics.

Reading

On an allocated day your child will read with myself within a guided reading session. A suitable book will also be sent home. You are welcome to record any comments about your child's reading and return these to school to inform us of how your child's reading is progressing at home. I am happy to send additional books as requested. Please note that children's reading levels will be reviewed in September and a colour book-band will be allocated, which may be different to their previous colour band.

Please note that unless your child brings a school book bag (or suitable bag), reading books will remain in school.

Reading books will be sent home on Friday and are due back in school the following Friday. Should your child need to change their book before Friday, please bring it to school where this can be checked off and a new book provided.

I will hear your child read in school each week as part of our guided reading carousel and through whole class reading of our class novel. These sessions aim to provide more focused teaching of reading and comprehension skills.

For the Autumn term, up to the Christmas break, our class novel will be **"Whistling in the Dark"** by Shirley Hughes.

Homework

As well as reading, homework will be set on **Friday** to be returned by **Wednesday**. The focus of homework tasks will vary weekly to consolidate learning in school, however there will usually be a maths or literacy task, including optional challenges.

Following the success of previous years, homework will be set, returned and marked on MS TEAMS. Children's logins will remain the same as last year and they will receive a copy of this to take home in the first week of term.

If your child is unable to access their TEAMS account at home for whatever reason, we will provide a suitable time in school for children to complete the tasks prior to the hand in date on the Friday.



Spellings

As part of our continued focus on spelling, we are utilising Jane Considine's Spelling book. This is an approach based around spelling rules, themes and patterns. Children will receive a "Focus 5" spelling set to continually focus on in school. Therefore, there will be no spelling list for children to learn on a weekly basis at home.

In addition to this new scheme of work, Year 6 will be provided with our SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) guide which will aid their preparation for the May assessments.



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PE

In the Autumn term, Year 5/6 PE day will be Tuesday. In addition to this, Year 5 and Year 6 will be swimming on a Wednesday. This session will be delivered by Durham County Council. Please ensure your child has suitable kit for the sessions, including a swimming hat.

Swimming sessions will begin on Wednesday 10th September.

Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school at all times, with all items clearly labelled.

Please note earrings and jewellery (including Fitbits and other smart watches) must be removed for PE lessons. Also, for the continued health and safety of our pupils, we are aiming to be an 'earring free' school. Your support in this is greatly appreciated.

PE days may change due to coaching availability, but you will be made aware of any changes in advance.

Can I help?

We understand that this year may be challenging and daunting for pupils as they become used to new routines, classroom layouts and being back in a formal education setting. Please rest assured that we will do everything possible to ensure your child continues to find school a safe, welcoming and engaging environment during their time in Year 5 and Year 6.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to your child, please contact the school office via email or telephone.

Year 6 SATS

This year pupils will sit the SATS examinations: Reading, GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling), Mental Arithmetic and two Mathematic Reasoning papers. As the year progresses, we will be offering a SATS night for parents to fully explain the tests, SATS after-school revision clubs and revision guides will also be sent home. We thank you for your continued support in helping pupils to complete the revision guides and homework activities as they complete the end of their primary education.

Please note that more information regarding SATS will follow.

Thank you for your continued support.
Mr Seaton