



Welcome to Year 5

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 5, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

Year 5 Staff

Mrs L Crowfoot (Upper school leader / Class teacher Cuckoos)

Miss L Mills (Class teacher Magpies)

Mrs J Kelleher (PPA Teacher Magpies)

Mrs J Kelly (PPA Teacher Cuckoos)

Mrs S Wood & Mrs J Tanton (TAs Magpies)

Mrs A McGoldrick & Mrs A Ades (TAs Cuckoos)

Year 5 Expectations

We aim to help the children develop good work habits in preparation for the academic demands of year 6 such as an ability to work independently and demonstrate initiative.

Year 5 Curriculum

Details of the curriculum that your child will be studying during the academic year can be found on the school website. To locate this information, simply go to the 'About Us' section and then click on 'Curriculum'. In this section you will find details about our topics and the areas that the children will be studying in English, Maths, Science, Computing and RE. This section of the website will be updated prior to the start of each new topic. Terms 1 & 2 have been amended to reflect this academic year.

This academic year we will no longer be dividing the children in Years 3-6 into ability sets for the teaching of English (with the exception of spelling and phonics). We believe it is important to ensure that literacy skills are firmly embedded into other subjects such as science, history and geography which are currently taught in whole class groups. Writing will be taught in mixed ability class groups, by your child's own class teacher, where the work will be differentiated for the varying ability groups within the class. The skills the children acquire can then be more thoroughly reinforced through the writing produced in other subject areas. More cross curricular teaching may also take place where links will be made between literacy and other subjects. For example a literacy unit on persuasive arguments may be taught through a history topic or developing cohesion between sentences may be addressed through the writing of scientific conclusions. We hope that the children will understand the importance of showing their best literacy skills in all written tasks and not just in isolated English lessons. Setting will still remain in Years 2-6 for the teaching of mathematics.

Reading Books

Please encourage the children to read a variety of books, comics, information books, TV guides, signs on the roads, packets in supermarkets etc. Reading is not just about decoding words, we encourage the children to talk about the book, discuss characters and develop understanding or inference.

Your child will have been given a Reading Record book in which we would like them to record any reading they have been doing. This can be for a school reading book or one from home. Whenever possible, we would encourage the children to read to an adult at home and the adult is then welcome to write a short comment in the reading record book if they wish or simply sign and date in the appropriate boxes on the page. We do appreciate that once the children become more independent readers, they may not want to read to an adult and so the children can take ownership of keeping a record of their reading. Teachers will then ask the children to bring their Reading Record book to each Guided Reading session. This will give us the opportunity to monitor the children's personal reading and give praise to those reading on a

regular basis. Teachers or Teaching Assistants will also record a short comment linked to the guided reading session at least once a month. This is in addition to the internal on-going assessment and record keeping systems that we use within school.

Children are able to change their books as often as they have read them (daily if required). Our aim is to encourage all children to read as often as possible and for the children to develop a life-long love of reading. **It is our observation that children who read regularly at home, and therefore read a wider range of texts, tend to demonstrate greater progress in reading, writing and spelling!**

Homework

Maths will be set by the teacher responsible for your child's Maths group on Friday to be handed in on Tuesday at the latest. Children may also be given additional times tables practice sheets if required. An additional piece will be given to support Literacy or other subjects. This will be set on a Thursday to be handed in by the following Tuesday. Pupils will undertake a personal project during the year. (This will be a river project in term 2)

Spelling and Phonics

In terms 1 all children will be focusing on phonics work, this will be a suitable phase from the Letters and Sounds scheme matched to the children's ability. From term 2 onwards some children may move onto exploring other spelling rules and strategies whilst others might continue to develop their phonetic knowledge. Phonics and spelling work is currently taught in ability groups for 2 x 30 minute sessions per week.

Times Tables

Children are expected to practise their times tables at home. These will be tested each week within their class maths set.

Equipment and Resources

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom at the beginning of the year; this includes a pencil, a pen (once they achieve their pen licence), use of rubbers, rulers and scissors. However, we encourage children to provide their own pencil case of essential equipment: writing pencil, coloured pencils, pencil sharpener, ruler and rubber. This should be named. If children are inconsiderate about the use of school equipment this will need to be replaced at a cost to parents.

P.E

Children will have timetabled PE on Tuesday and Friday for Magpies and Tuesday and Thursday for Cuckoos. However, it is useful for them to have their PE kit in school every day. PE kits should be brought into school on a Monday morning and taken home on a Friday. It is essential that PE kits should consist of a coloured house t-shirt, black or navy shorts, plimsolls for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE. A tracksuit (jogging bottoms and jumper) and fingerless gloves are useful for outdoor PE in colder weather. All items should be fully named as should all school items of clothing. **If your child wears earrings these MUST be taken out for all PE lessons, no child will be allowed to participate if they cannot remove their earrings themselves.**

Celebration Assembly

This will take place on a Monday. This is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded each week with special certificates. Every fortnight a child from the Key Stage is chosen as the Citizen of the Week and invited to a tea party with Mr Holditch and/or Miss Talbot.

Healthy Snacks and Water

Children may bring a healthy snack for morning break on a Friday but are only permitted to have fruit or veg from Monday to Thursday mornings. Children are allowed water only to drink in their classrooms throughout the day. This should be provided in a 'Godinton Water Bottle' (available to purchase from the school office) or a clear bottle, no larger than 500ml.

Speaking to School Staff

Children are expected to come into school independently in the morning. First thing in the morning is not an ideal time for parents to talk to staff as their priority must be supervising the children coming safely into the classroom. When we dismiss the children at the end of the day, this is a good time to catch us if the need arises. Many minor problems can be sorted out this way. For more important matters an appointment can be made via the school office.

Kent Test (PESE / 11+)

Year 5 parents are offered an additional meeting in June 2017 in order to discuss the Kent Test (sometimes referred to as the PESE test or 11+). We are unable to discuss this prior to June 2017 as we will not have completed the relevant assessments and work scrutiny until this point. In May 2017 you will receive further information about applying for the test and arranging an appointment to discuss it.

School Trips

We hope to enrich the children's learning experience this year through several school trips. We will have a local river trip where the children will sketch the River Stour and the local environment. Also this term we will visit Horton Kirby where the children will have the opportunity to get into a river, conduct experiments to measure depth and flow, as well as learn about the river features and a river's impact on the environment first hand. We hope to plan additional trips for later in the academic year.

We estimate the total cost of all of these trips to be approximately £30.

We also have the extra-curricular residential trip to Kingswood in March 2017 - a separate letter has been sent out with details of a meeting relating to this trip.

Finally ...

We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child has an enjoyable and rewarding year.

If you do need to speak to us at any time, please do not hesitate to telephone or to pop into the office to make an appointment.

Mrs Crowfoot and Miss Mills