



September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! The children have all made a great start to Year 5 and Mrs Beatham and I are already delighted with their hard-working attitude.

To help you support your child, a half-termly curriculum newsletter is on the school website detailing the different areas we will be covering in each subject. Our first theme is A Kingdom United and we are already enjoying learning about legends of the British Isles in literacy and learning the geography of the UK.

As in previous years, homework will be issued to children on a Thursday and should be completed by the following Tuesday. The homework will usually be a page of mental maths and a page of grammar work. If your child is unable to complete their homework at home, or needs some help, they may wish to attend homework club on a Thursday lunchtime.

As well as written homework, children will also have a home reading book which they choose themselves. Please encourage your child to read daily and to talk about the books they read. We will also read in a small group in class. These group reading sessions will be led by a member of staff and will provide children with the opportunity to look closely at the way authors create texts. Library is on a Monday and your child is able to choose a book at this time if they wish.

Each week we will work on spelling, looking closely at how words are formed and exploring a variety of spelling strategies. Children will bring a list of spelling words home on a Monday and will be tested on them the following Monday. Children will also have regular times tables tests to help to improve their mental calculations. Please support your child in learning their times tables. We also encourage children to go on Numbershed at home, as this helps improve their mental maths and speed.

During Year 5, we will continue to attend swimming lessons at Kirkham Baths. Our lessons will take place on a Wednesday afternoon and children are required to bring the following items with them each week:

- Girls - a one piece swimming costume (no bikinis or tankinis allowed)
- Boys - swimming trunk which is a tight fit and above the knee
- A towel
- A tissue
- A swimming cap for all girls and any boy with a fringe that goes over his eyes.

Please note that if your child has a verruca this must be treated with Bazuka gel before coming to school that day or a verruca sock must be worn. If for any reason, your child cannot go swimming, please send a letter to show the swimming teacher.

Thank you for sending PE kits in promptly. Our PE lesson will take place on Thursday afternoon and we will try to go outdoors whenever we can.

In Year 5, one of the exciting changes is that all children have the opportunity to take part in instrumental music lessons. These lessons are free of charge and pupils can learn the saxophone or clarinet. Lessons will be on a Tuesday afternoon and are led by Mrs Lamb from Lancashire Music Service. Once the children have learnt to put the instrument together (usually about half term), we will send a letter home asking for you to give permission for your child to bring the instrument home to practise. However, instruments must always be back in school each Tuesday for our lesson.

Finally, I know that many of the children in the class are already talking about the weekend trip to Hothersall Lodge with great excitement. All the children who have taken part in the last few years have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The proposed date is 25th-27th April, 2018 and the cost will be in the region of £150.

Thank you for your continued support and please feel free to pop in school if you have any questions. I am usually in the junior playground at the end of the day as well.

Many thanks,

Ms Norris