



Class 5L Newsletter

Term 1

Dear Parents and Guardians,

12.9.16

Welcome

Firstly may I welcome all children and parents/guardians to the brand new school year. The class are already settled in nicely and have begun meeting the challenges of being in Year 5.

Year 5 Aims and Importance

As I explained to the class when I saw them at the end of last term, Year 5 is a vital year as it lays the groundwork for having a successful Year 6. We will build on the progress from last year to improve academic and social skills as quickly as possible. It is also important that children enjoy their learning and look forward to coming to school every day.

Communication With Parents and Carers

I believe it is very important children know that adults at school and home are working together for their benefit. I can guarantee that every decision made in terms of work or behaviour is aimed to help your child as much as possible.

Here are the ways you will be contacted about your child:

- New Contact/Reading Records Books: If you have an important message about your child and are not able to speak to me please use this new book. Your child will need to show me the message, and I will then respond the same day. I will occasionally write my own message, but I usually prefer to speak to a parent if it is an important issue. These books also contain a lot of other very important information
- Before and After School: If a significant incident has happened that day I will aim to speak to parents or carers after school. Should behaviour become a problem I will approach it this way. If you have any concerns of your own, I am happy to speak before or after school (please see me first rather than approaching Mr Terry).
- Class Newsletters: There will be a class newsletter at the start of each term, which will outline some of the ideas and topics being taught. It will also notify you of classroom routines and dates for the forthcoming term. Other class letters may be written during the term and sent home on paper or via Parent Mail.
- Mini Reports: Each term you will be sent a report informing you of academic progress as well as levels for effort and behaviour. At the same time you will be informed of termly targets for English and maths.

- Meetings With Parents/Carers: Occasionally I will arrange an after school meeting to discuss an important issue.
- Classroom Visits: Each Friday there is still the opportunity to see children's work before school. ACE Week visits will continue but in a slightly different format. There will also be a parents' consultation evening though the date for this has not yet been confirmed.

School Dinners

Please can all children who bring dinner money in, do so at the start of the week. If your child is changing from school dinner to packed lunch or vice versa, I would be very grateful if you could mention this in your child's contact book.

Curriculum and Topic

The first two to three weeks of the year will be dedicated to a whole school topic. This is based on giving children high aspirations and even thinking about future careers. It will culminate in a visit to Kidzania in London followed by a school Careers Fair.

The rest of the term our topic centres on books or plays by famous writers. Year 5 will be looking at the works of Jacqueline Wilson and William Shakespeare.

Curriculum subjects such as science, design and technology and geography will be linked to this topic.

There will be a daily English and maths lesson and details of the targets for this term are being sent home today as well.

We will also be having a weekly music lesson from a specialist visiting teacher.

Staffing

Mrs Finch will be the Year 5 teaching assistant this year and Mrs Brasova will take PE, RE and French for one afternoon a week.

Times

The same arrangements continue from last term where children come into school from 8.40am to 8.50am. This opportunity for discussing and improving the previous day's work is invaluable. After 8.50 your child/children will be marked as late in accordance with Kent County Council attendance policy. In Years 3-6 children stop work at 3.15 meaning they will usually arrive in the playground around 3.20.

Attendance

I really want Year 5 to be the best class for attendance and will make a point of rewarding those who have a 100% record. We will call you about any children who become ill at school, if they have had a head injury or are clearly in distress, but otherwise children will be encouraged to continue to manage the best they can. I will notify parents or carers in the playground if your child has been under the weather.

Dress

As you may remember from last term there is a new dress code for Westgate, which will be rigorously enforced. Details of these regulations are in the new contact book.

PE

Physical education is taught twice a week, once by Mrs Brasova on Tuesdays and once by me on Wednesdays. Your child/children are responsible for bringing their PE kits into school. Our policy on PE kits is black shorts and a plain t-shirt in the colour of your child/children's house; Romans – blue, Saxons – green, Vikings – red, Normans – yellow. In the winter, if outside, plain dark coloured tracksuits are advisable. No jewellery should be worn during PE, except religious items where they do not impede your child/children's safety. Children will be expected to do PE unless there is a clear parental note or if an obvious injury has occurred earlier during the day.

Reading

Reading at school and home is absolutely vital to your child's progress.

Children need to take home their new reading diaries, which will be checked on Fridays. We expect five Reading Diary entries per week. Entries at home can be done by children themselves, but it is preferable, if they are reading with a parent or carer, who can then sign the entry. Children will be given an opportunity to change books during silent reading sessions.

Every day there will be a silent reading session and a guided reading session. Most days I will end with reading a story.

What To Bring To School

Children should not bring pencil cases to school as all the necessary stationery is provided and pencil cases often cause disputes and problems. Children should bring their book bag folder every day. They can also bring fruit for play time and packed lunches, if they do not have school dinners. Once a week we will have a showing time for children to share something interesting, but children bring these items at their own risk. It is best if PE kits remain at school until the end of each term. Unless the forecast is guaranteed for dry weather, children should have a coat at school.

Timetable

Literacy and maths are taught daily and where possible links are made creatively across the class topic. Activities are differentiated to support individual learning. There are daily silent and guided reading sessions. Not all curriculum subjects are taught every term, but they will be given their full time allocation over the course of the whole year.

Clubs

Information about extra-curricular clubs that your child can participate in will be sent out at different times of the year. There is a wide choice of these and I hope your child is able to attend at least one on a regular basis.

Homework

Your child is expected to read at home daily for approximately 10 – 20 minutes in KS2. This can be done independently or reading with parents or carers.

On Friday, English homework, which should take about half an hour, is given out in a folder.

Occasionally the English homework might be using the website spag.com. My Maths homework on the computer will also be activated each Friday. Passwords will be attached to your child's homework folder.

Spellings are given out each week for a spelling test on Fridays. The results of these will also be sent home.

The new national curriculum states that by the end of Year 4 children should *recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication up to 12 x 12*. In order to achieve this, children will be given weekly tests with the expectation of learning at home if required.

Homework aims to reinforce ideas covered at school and should be done neatly. Any voluntary extra work done at home is hugely celebrated.

Written homework will be given out on Friday and returned and completed by Wednesday the following week. Children who have not done homework or made sufficient entries in their reading diaries will be asked to catch up at lunchtimes.

If homework is causing problems please let me know.

Rewards and Sanctions

Good behaviour, active learning and hard work are heartily encouraged in Year 5. Rewards may include stickers, house points and certificates. There will continue to be the Child of the Week, Writer of the Week and Mathematician of the Week award and I really hope every pupil will earn these at least once over the school year.

Each class also has a coloured daily behaviour chart which ranges from gold behaviour (outstanding) to red behaviour (unacceptable).

Sanctions will range from relatively minor things (finishing or improving disappointing work at break times) to the more serious Reflection Time.

If there are any significant behaviour issues, I will contact parents or carers as soon as possible.

Trips

During the year I hope to organise a number of educational visits. When these occur letters will be sent out giving you full information. As well as the whole school Kidzania Trip on 19th September, Year 5 are also participating in a very important concert at Longfield Academy on **Tuesday, 6th December**.

In partnership with you and your children, we look forward to a successful year and hope that everyone enjoys their time in Year 5.

Yours faithfully,

M.Le-Faye,

Class Teacher, Year 5