



# Cropredy C of E Primary School

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4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

I hope you have all had a lovely summer break – it certainly went quick! I am really looking forward to working with my new class and feel excited with the various learning opportunities that lie ahead. It will also be lovely working with so many familiar faces and getting to know children I haven't taught before 😊. I know the children are very excited to have their own lockers in year 5 and to take on responsibility roles such as a school register monitor.

This term, we will be focusing on the theme of 'The Victorians'. We will investigate the changing role of servants from the Victorian era to today. Lots of our literacy will be based on the book 'Frost Hollow Hall' by Emma Carroll. For those who have read it already – I hope you enjoyed it! As there is a ghostly element to the story, we will be looking at Victorian ghost poems after the first half term. If any parents have ghost stories of their own to tell or a story that you particularly like, then I would love for you to share that with the class in November – please come and see me if you are interested. Our imminent trip to Holdenby House will also look at the role of servants as the children will get to experience first-hand some of the chores performed in the day. The class will then be writing a letter home recounting the day as part of our English task. Please look out for a separate letter which will be sent home by the end of this week. For more information about what we will be learning this term, please see the topic web.

In preparation for high school (not long now!) the children in year 5 will continue developing their independent skills by being encouraged to take more ownership over their learning, targets, homework and equipment they might need to bring into school. This is the reason why I have encouraged a purchase of a diary for this year. Each term, I will go through dates with the children so that they know what is happening. I have also put up a diary dates board in the class where I will be putting notes of things your child needs to bring in such as a swimming kit on the correct day. Hopefully this will help in making them feel more independent. Many thanks.

## **Classroom routines**

Please check the Year 5 page on the website for the class timetable. All children will be given a copy of this in school, which they can keep with their diaries.

Every morning, the children will begin the day by doing handwriting practise through spellings that they need to learn. These could be words misspelt in work or spellings from their weekly spelling test. The children will be encouraged to use a dictionary for words they are unsure of the meaning and to put the words into context by writing a sentence. A copy of the letter formation we will be using is displayed on the Year 5 webpage.

Book bags - Children will be encouraged to place any correspondence from school directly into their book bags rather than in their class drawers. Hopefully, this will alleviate any letters being left in school for weeks! Please check your child's book bags regularly for letters.

Please could you also provide your child with a named rough shirt that they can use for art activities in school please. I will keep these shirts in a box in the class throughout their time in year 5. Thanks.

We will be operating a 'book borrowing' scheme in school which enables children to share their favourite books with others in the class. The children are welcome to bring a book from home that they can place into the borrowing box in school for others to read. At the end of the year, any books will be returned to the lender. If your child does donate a book to the box, please ensure that it is named. If another child wants to read that book, we will record who is taking it out so that we can monitor the books whereabouts.

## **Homework**

Homework is given out on Thursday's and will be due in the following Thursday, where we will mark and discuss the work together as a whole class. If your child finds the homework tricky, please ask them to come and see me (a point I will be reiterating in the class) but not to leave it to the last day when I will be short on time to help them before it is due in. I will also be discussing with the children the importance of trying, even when they find the work challenging - we will go through any difficulties together in the class when we mark 😊

Homework will usually consist of an English, maths, spelling and reading diary where they will need to summarise what they have been reading throughout the week. To encourage ownership of their home learning, a homework list will be placed in the classroom that your child can tick off each time they complete a task. To help you monitor their homework, your child will be given a homework instruction sheet each Thursday. Please check it and sign when your child has completed all their tasks. Many thanks

## **P.E.**

Year 5 will have their swimming lessons this term on Thursday. The first session commences next week on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September -please could you ensure that a swimming kit is brought in on this day. Thank you.

## Forest School

Mr Pambles will be running outdoor learning sessions for years 4, 5 and 6 throughout the year. These sessions will usually compliment the work being covered in curriculum areas, for example, Year 5's forest school sessions this term will be maths focused where they will use the outdoors to experience measuring area and perimeter. Dates that your child will be required to bring in a Forest School Kit (rough trousers, long sleeved top, wellies and waterproofs or sunhat, weather depending) for this term are **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September** and **8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November**. If there are any additional dates or changes to these then you will be notified via a text message from school. Please ensure that your child has their kit on the dates specified – many thanks.

## How you can support your child with their learning

### Reading –

- Please listen to your child read out loud regularly. Discuss any words your child is unfamiliar with and listen to whether they pause when there is punctuation.
- Discuss passages read and ask them their thoughts. Can they quote from the text to give more evidence for their answer?
- Reading diary entry – read through your child's comments in their reading diaries and ask them to read it out loud to you. Does it make sense? Have they used enough punctuation? Have they taken into account any of the 'actions' (in pink) I had given for their last reading diary entry?

### Spellings –

- Please support your child by testing them on their weekly spelling homework.
- For your reference, I have also enclosed a list of the spellings the children need to know (in years 5 & 6) from the national curriculum. I thought it would be useful for you to see what words they need to learn. Throughout this and next year, they will be taught these spellings in class work and in weekly homework spelling tests. It would be really useful if your child could look up in a dictionary any of the words that they do not know the meaning of. Perhaps you could support your child by demonstrating how to use unfamiliar words in a sentence.

### Maths –

- Please take every opportunity to keep testing your child's knowledge of the times tables.
- Practise converting measurements in real life such as litres in a pint and grams into ounces when cooking. (A conversion chart will be placed in the children's diaries).

### Useful dates

Autumn term 1	Autumn term 2
<b>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Sept</b> – First swimming session commences ( <i>see separate letter for more</i> )	<b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> November</b> – Return to school <b>Fri 8<sup>th</sup> and Fri 15<sup>th</sup> of November</b> – Forest

<i>information)</i> <b>Fri 13<sup>th</sup> and Fri 20<sup>th</sup> September</b> – Forest school sessions <b>Weds 25<sup>th</sup> September</b> – Harvest festival at Cropredy Church (1.30pm) <b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> September</b> – Holdenby House Victorian Trip <b>Fri 25<sup>th</sup> October</b> – End of first term	school sessions <b>Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Nov</b> – Year 5 class assembly (2pm) <b>Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> – Christmas Jumper Day <b>Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> – Theatre Trip to North Wall Arts Centre to see Snow Queen. <b>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> – End of second term
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**Please remember that all dates are subject to change, but I will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible of any alterations. Many thanks.**

Look forward to seeing you around.

Kind regards

Victoria Middleton-Mai