



Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a fantastic summer holiday, even though the weather wasn't particularly impressive!

It has been lovely to have the children back this week and to get into the swing of things. We have an exciting year ahead of us in Year 5 and 6 with plenty of activities, experiences and learning.

This letter will give you a brief overview of some of the key information for this term, including the trips and events coming up.

Start of the Day

The children in Year 5 and 6 are expected to come into school by themselves. We also encourage them to be responsible for their own belongings and organisation. If you need to pass on important messages to your child's teacher, please do this via the senior leader on the school gate. Alternatively, contact the school office and leave a message; we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Meet the Teacher

This year our Meet the Teacher days will be Tuesday 10th October and Wednesday 11th October. These meetings are a chance for you to meet your child's new class teacher and to discuss any important information regarding your child. It is also a chance for teachers to let you know how your child has settled into their new year group and class. Further information about how to book appointments will be sent out in October.

PE Days

As mentioned in previous school information, the children will come to school in their PE kit on their designated PE days. Please ensure that this kit is appropriate for the weather. A light waterproof is a great addition for wet days. If children are in incorrect kit, a letter will be sent home as a reminder. Thank you for your support with this- it helps us to look smart and professional.

PE days:

RSO- Thursdays and Fridays

DMO- Tuesdays and Thursdays

BCL- Wednesdays and Thursdays

SAB- Mondays and Tuesdays

Forest School

Year 5 have Forest School in the autumn term this year. Please keep an eye on the weather and dress accordingly; in unseasonably hot autumn weather, please feel free to wear shorts and t-shirt or your PE kit. When the weather turns colder and wetter, a waterproof jacket, warm clothes and wellies are required.

SAB- Thursday afternoon

BCL- Friday afternoon

Trips

This term our historical enquiry question is, “The Death of Tutankhamun: Murder or Mishap?” This enquiry will focus on the use of artefacts and evidence to draw conclusions on how Tutankhamun died. Throughout this enquiry, the children will also be taught historical knowledge about this ancient civilisation and how the Ancient Egyptians lived. We have already booked our trip to Exeter Museum and will be travelling there by train. Please see the separate letter detailing information about this.

****Year 5 & 6 Dress Up****

On Thursday 14th September (next week), children in Year 5 and 6 can come into school dressed as archaeologists. This does not need to be anything extravagant; the brief is simply shorts and t-shirt/shirt etc. Archaeologists spend lots of time down in the dirt digging for artefacts, so we don't expect to see anyone in their best party dresses or football kits please! If you have any queries about this, please speak to your child's teacher.

Author Visit

Excitingly, we also have our annual author visit coming up. On Wednesday 27th September, Tom Palmer will be visiting Sticklepath to entertain the classes. Tom has written over 60 children's books, including many which are based on sports, such as the Football Academy series and the Rugby Academy series. His books are suitable for all children in Year 5 and 6 and we cannot wait to meet him to learn how he writes and where he gets his ideas from!

Library Books and Guided Reading

Library and class reading books can be taken home. It is essential that these books are well cared for; every year we lose many books which have to be replaced at a significant cost. Please ensure they are kept safe and are well loved! It is important to make sure the children have a book in school every day. If your child brings a school book home, please ensure that it comes back to school every day.

In Year 5 and 6, guided reading homework is set almost weekly. It could be finishing a chapter or reading the next one. It is expected that children keep up with this homework as if they do not, it seriously impacts their understanding of the story and their ability to answer questions. Children are given time in school to do this (usually during early morning work or after lunch) or can take their books home.

Guided reading days are as follows:

RSO- Tuesday DMO- Wednesday SAB- Wednesday BCL- Thursday

Please ensure any guided reading books are in school on the correct day!

Home Learning

We will resume our home learning on Google Classroom in the coming weeks. This homework will also be available as a paper copy for those children who do not have access to a device or Google Classroom at home.

In Year 5 and 6, all children are expected to read every day at home. It is also incredibly important for them to be heard read by an adult at least twice a week. This is so that they can continue developing their fluency in reading aloud, expression and confidence.

Swimming

This year, Year 5 will be completing 10 weeks of swimming in the Spring term. Year 6 swimmers who are unable to swim 25m have also been offered catch up swimming in the autumn term. Please ensure to check your emails to see if your Year 6 child is part of this group.

We have so much to look forward to this year with these events as well as sports activities, clubs and pupil voice roles such as librarians and school council. Thank you in advance for your support with our events and for supporting your children to become more independent and confident.

Year 5 and 6 Team

Mrs Clement, Mr Abell, Miss Southam, Mr Moore and Mrs Oke