



Year 5 Newsletter

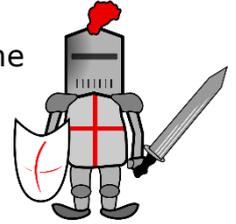
Welcome to Year 5!

We hope both you and your child have had a restful summer break and that they are feeling fully refreshed for learning at the start of a brand new academic year full of memorable learning experiences.

As many of you will be aware already, the Medway Selection Test for Grammar Schools (previously known as 11+) has moved to September in Year 6. We therefore work hard to ensure all children are well prepared making Year 5 a demanding but stimulating year.

Term 1: A Knight Thou Shall Be...

We begin the year with our project 'A Knight Thou Shalt Be'. We'll spend time exploring the training programme a true knight would have experienced. They'll be trained by a professional instructor to groom and ride a horse like a real page; how to use a bow and arrow safely; learn how to be chivalrous; design a coat of arms before making a shield to represent their own family; create mini suits of armour; learn about weaponry; sing ballads; explore battles fought by knights and take part in a traditional knighting ceremony where the children will be knighted into Year 5. They will only be knighted if they have successfully completed their training to become a Year 5 pupil by following the code of conduct agreed by the class just like the chivalry code of conduct knights were expected to adhere to.



Literacy skills (writing and reading) will be taught through our project. For example, we will write diary entries to improve pupil's understanding of: first person writing by expressing thoughts and feelings in a more mature way; the correct use of the verb 'to be' and how to write creative similes. There will be a huge focus on editing writing as minor errors within children's writing are often a result of trying to concentrate on many things at once as opposed to a lack of understanding.

Numeracy Lessons

Numeracy will be taught on a daily basis in your child's own class, with the introduction of the mathematical scheme Singapore Maths. This will be a new approach in how we teach numeracy, which will help our pupils develop both their numerical and thinking skills. We will begin with the teaching of number up to 100,000.



Numeracy homework will be set on a **Friday** and sent home in a blue folder. Pupils should complete their homework neatly on the sheets provided using a HB pencil, allowing 30 minutes to complete the tasks set. If completed sooner, pupils are expected to continue practicing their times tables using multiplication and the related division facts. Homework should be returned to their teacher no later than the following **Wednesday**.

Changes to PE lessons this year!

PE lessons will continue throughout Year 5, but with one lesson being taught outside (Tuesday afternoon) and the other in the school hall (Thursday) each week, all year. Therefore, it is essential that your child has their **named PE kit**, consisting of black shorts, a house colour t-shirt, as well as trainers, tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt for outdoor PE. They must also ensure that they can remove any jewellery they are wearing (earrings, watches). Hair, shoulder length or longer, should also be tied back.



Reading Expectations

The ability to read well is crucial – a life skill required by all. As a result, we require **each child to:**

- read on **five separate occasions every week** (at least three times to an adult);
- **note their reading in their contact book**
- **have a parent/guardian sign their book** to confirm the reading has taken place.



Additional comments from parents are welcome. Reading Record books will be checked and signed on a Monday, but should be brought into school each day.

Guided Reading will take place for 20 to 30 minutes a day in school. During this time, small groups of children will read a carefully chosen text to the teacher or teaching assistant therefore each child should read to an adult in school at least once a week.

Project Homework

Weekly homework will be issued on a **Friday** for it to be completed and returned by the following **Wednesday**. Your child is required to spend a **minimum of 30 minutes** completing their homework using a handwriting pen. Should your child not complete the task in the time allotted, please jot a quick note in their book to say they have spent 30 minutes fully concentrated on the task. This will allow us to adjust the quantity of homework accordingly. Occasionally, project homework may consist of longer tasks to be completed over consecutive weeks. We will make you aware of this should this be the case.



Plea for Boxes, Egg boxes, Yoghurt Pots, Etc!

As part of this term's topic, children will be completing some independent learning about castles. As part of this element of work, children will be given the opportunity to make small models of castles within a small group. Therefore, the year group requires a large selection of small and medium sized boxes, egg boxes, etc. So, as you finish your evening meals, please save the packaging and send it in with your child. There may be credits available.

Diary Dates

Thursday 15th September: Archery sessions for Giraffe Class and 20 pupils from Rhino Class.

Friday 16th September: Archery sessions for Lion Class and 10 pupils from Rhino Class.

Wednesday 21st September: Rhino Class and 15 pupils from Giraffe Class horse riding

Thursday 22nd September: Lion Class and 15 pupils from Giraffe Class horse riding

Friday 23rd September: Deadline for payment for Horse Riding Visit and archery sessions.

Friday 21st October: Last day of Term 1

Monday 31st October: First day of Term 2

If there are any questions regarding Year 5, do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher using your child's reading record or via the school office.

Miss Cook (Head of Year), Mrs Macias, Mrs Wintle and Mr Jones