



Year 5 Newsletter

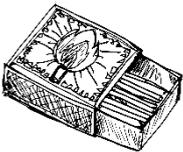
Welcome to Year 5!

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+) takes place at the start of 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: All Change!

This year we have decided to start Year 5 differently, with the introduction of two new projects. We shall begin with a very short project about the continent Africa, which will allow the children to demonstrate their skills in story writing, music and geography. We felt it would be appropriate to start the year with a project which links to the names of the classes in Year 5, which are all African mammals (Rhino, Lion and Giraffe).



The following topic will be 'The Matchbox Diary'. This is a lovely story about a grandfather who shares his memories about his childhood with his grandchild, when he was a boy at the start of the 20th century. The text will be a focal point for several weeks, as it is a suggested text from the Power of Reading Scheme we trialled last year in Year 5. The aim is to help engage all pupils in reading positively; through listening to stories; re-enacting them; creating artistic interpretations and discussion. Pupils will develop their writing skills through their composition of poetry, description and letter writing. Also, Year 5 will have the opportunity to find out about older members of our community childhood's and the memories they have, which will be a similar experience to one of the characters in the story we are studying. We have invited members of the charity AgedUK to the school for the afternoon, for tea, biscuits and entertainment (provided by Year 5).

The term will conclude with our year group production, which is entitled 'Olivia'. There is an overall theme in Year 5 for the first 2 terms of looking into the past (we focus on the Ancient Egyptians in Term 2), so this production will link nicely, as it is loosely related to the Charles Dickens novel Olivia, which is set in Victorian times. Letters regarding the production will be sent out shortly.

Numeracy Lessons

Numeracy will be taught on a daily basis in your child's own class using the mathematical scheme Singapore Maths. We will begin with the teaching of number up to 1,000,000.

Numeracy homework will be set on a **Friday** and will be set from CGP books. Each pupil will have their own workbook to complete, with allocated questions set by the class teacher each week. A detailed letter will accompany the workbook, explaining these changes in more detail.



In addition, we may feel it necessary to set additional or alternative homework using Mathletics. Your child will be able to use their username and password from last year. We shall send home a reminder of these details, early next week.

Pupils should complete their homework neatly 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**.

PE lessons and Outdoor Education

PE lessons will continue throughout Year 5, with one lesson being taught outside (Wednesday 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.



Outdoor Education will continue this year, but shall be taught by your child's teacher. These lessons will be taught once a term, with a note going home with your child a few days before, reminding them to come to school suitably dressed for being outside all day (coat, gloves, tracksuit, jeans, jumper, hat, etc).

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.

Children will be given additional time to read in school, with the opportunity to read with an adult whenever possible.

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 Chocolate Boxes

As part of our new project 'The Matchbox Diary', each child will require an empty chocolate box with a tray inside. A small request was sent out at the end of the last term, so we hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy a box of chocolates over the summer holidays! Please send your empty boxes in with your child.

Diary Dates

Thursday 21st September: Year 5 Outdoor Education Day

Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th, Friday 29th September: AgedUK visiting Year 5

Thursday 19th October: Year 5 Production to parents at 6:30pm

Friday 20th October: Term 1 ends

Monday 30th 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), Miss Edgely and Mr Jones