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Headteacher: Mrs. R. Black, B.Ed (Hons)

Friday 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents,

5, 4, 3, 2, 1, LIFT OFF - Your child has blasted through the lower school and landed in Year 5!

We hope this letter finds you well, and you and your families had a delightful summer break. It is with great pleasure that we write to you regarding the progress of the children since their transition to our temporary location, Hatfield Place. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support and the kind messages we have received during this unprecedented situation.

First and foremost, we are immensely proud of the way your children have adjusted to their new environment. Their enthusiasm, adaptability, and willingness to embrace change have been truly remarkable. We commend their efforts and extend our appreciation to you, as parents, for the guidance and encouragement provided at home, which has undoubtedly played a significant role in their success.

Our first topic of the year is SPACE and we thought it would be useful to give a brief overview of the exciting lessons we have been busy planning:

| | 1 st half term |
|--------------------|---|
| English | Developing childrens' reading and writing skills through various texts: Wallace and Gromit - 'Cracking Contraptions' (Explanation texts) Gorilla by Anthony Browne (Narrative) |
| Class Novel | The London Eye Mystery |
| Maths | Decimal Fractions Money |
| Science | Earth and Space |
| RE | Why is the Gospel such good news for Christians? |
| Geography | Equator, tropics, hemispheres; longitude and latitude; time zones |
| Art | Drawing: Space and Planets |
| DT | |
| Music | |
| PE | Circuits |
| Computing | |
| PSHE | Being me in my world |

Homework

We are changing homework hand in day to a Thursday. The first hand in day will be Thursday 28th September. Spelling Tests and Times Tables speed grids will be on a Thursday too.

Spelling: The spellings inside the CGP books are for your child to learn across this half term. These spellings will be linked to their Spelling Shed accounts. If your child would prefer to write out their spelling instead, they can use any of the following methods:

- Look, say, cover, write, check
- Use each word in a silly sentence. The sillier the sentence, the more memorable.
- Write out the letters in the words with different coloured felt-tips or pencil crayons.
- Play hangman with a partner, using your words.

The choice is yours! We do not need to see evidence of this because we will be testing them weekly on a Thursday.

The National Curriculum sets out a list of words that children must be able to spell by the end of Year 6. In Year 5, we learn how to spell all of the Year 5 and 6 words and encourage the children to implement them in their written work. You will find the Year 5 and 6 'Words of the week' on the half-termly spelling sheet, please practise these with your child.

Grammar: Normally, we would use the Grammar CGP book for their weekly homework but for now we will be using it as part of their home learning on a Friday. Once the children have completed their set activity, they need to mark this work. The answers are in the back of the book. Please bring these books into school on a Monday.

Maths: We have handed out Maths homework books this week. We will be using these as part of your child's home learning on a Friday. They will have worksheets that reflect the maths learning taking part in class that week which will help consolidate their understanding of our decimal fractions unit.

Times tables: It is essential that the children have a quick recall of their times tables. They can practise these on TTRockstars. Every Thursday, we will test the children with a 5 minute times table speed grid.

Reading: Reading is also an essential part of your child's learning at home. Our expectations are that children should be reading 5 times a week. We have a small library that the children can choose from. Alternatively, they can bring in books from home or visit their local library.

Please find a recommended reading list for Year 5 [here](#). There are also some brilliant books linked to our Space topic that might interest your child: Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce, Space Band by Tom Fletcher, Space Blasters: Suzie Saves the Universe by Katie Tsang, Orion Lost by Alastair Chisholm and The Cosmic Diary of our Incredible Universe by British astronaut Tim Peake.

PE

Outdoor PE will be on a Monday and indoor PE will be part of home learning on a Friday.

Recommendations

Here are a list of things we recommend if you would like to enhance your child's learning during our Space topic:

Books - Space Band by Tom Fletcher, Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce, Neil Armstrong (Little People, Big Dreams book), Mae Jemison (Little People, Big Dreams book), Usborne Lift the flap Questions and Answers about Space book, The Cosmic Diary of our Incredible Universe by Tim Peake.

Outings - Southend Museum (planetarium), Greenwich Royal Observatory and planetarium, Stargazing at Great Notley Discovery Centre (check out the facebook page for the North Essex Astronomical Society)

Websites - European Space Agency (<https://www.esa.int/kids/en/learn>), NASA Space Place (<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/>), National Geographic Passport to Space (<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/space>).

Year 5 Reading List - Please find a recommended reading list for Year 5 [here](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries, we are very approachable and like to have good working relationships with parents.

You can email us directly at year5@hatfieldpeverel-jun.essex.sch.uk and we will aim to get back to you as soon as possible. For matters which require urgent attention, please call the school office.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead and we thank you for your support so far.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Briggs (Maple) and Mrs Spilling (Oak)