

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a relaxing summer break and took advantage of the quality family time that you had together. We are extremely excited with the challenges set for the year ahead for our class at St Andrew's CE Primary. Year 5 will be taught by myself, Mr Napier, as their class teacher, with Mrs King teaching on alternate Thursdays, bringing together a variety of expertise and enthusiasm to enrich your child's learning experience over the next year. This year, we will also be joined in class by two experienced teaching assistants familiar to our children, Mrs Dann and Mrs Dudley.

Our theme this term is 'Shh, Walls Have Ears' as outlined on the curriculum poster, where we will embrace literature, art, music and dance associated with World War 2, together with the historical significance and impact on our local area. This theme is underpinned by the big question: Are all people treated fairly?

As you are probably aware, Year 5 will embark on a series of field trips to a variety of local industries in and around Plymouth as part of the 'Widening Horizons' programme. These unique opportunities will offer our pupils in Year 5 an enriching insight to a variety of careers and working environments. Already, we have had confirmation of a collaborative art project and exhibition with artists from KARST gallery. Letters confirming the dates when schedules are confirmed, which will include permission reply slips, will go out in due course.

To ensure a smooth transition from Y4 to Y5, many of the routines that the children are used to will remain similar although the days may be different

Routines:

- Homework and Spellings will usually be given on a **Friday** and should be returned the following **Wednesday**. Occasionally, Homework will be set on Google Classroom and may include extended projects with alternative options. Arithmetic and reasoning test revision alongside times tables will continue to be ongoing homework activities with regular tests that usually will take place each **Tuesdays and Friday** mornings. Each week, as previously, Year 5 spellings will follow the Spelling Shed scheme in line with the National Curriculum; as you know, some words are challenging! **There may also be a short grammar or punctuation activity to reinforce what they have been learning in class.**
- PE activities will take place every **Tuesday and Wednesday**, however PE kit should be **brought to school every Monday, kept in school and taken home for washing on a Friday**. Please ensure PE kit is labelled as T-shirts and shorts are hard to track down without names. Tracksuits may be worn outside if the weather is cold.
- Please make sure that your child has a **water bottle** in school – the classrooms get very warm both in the summer and winter and active brains need plenty of hydration!
- Children should read every evening, ideally 20 minutes. Even though your child is becoming increasingly confident as a reader, it is still important that you share books together and talk about the features of the text. Children who regularly read at home generally make excellent progress in school. We will hear children read during guided reading each week or sometimes on a 1:1 basis. Books will be changed as often as possible. Free readers can change their own books.

As with their previous teachers, we have high expectations for our pupils and are keen to build a rapport with you all over the coming months, so if you have any concerns about your child's progress or well-being, then please come and see me. I am usually around before or after school, or you can call to make an appointment that is convenient for us both.

Many thanks,

Mr Napier and the Y5 team.