

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back. I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer and that you managed to take advantage of the beautiful weather- I can't believe how fast the time has gone! I have been very excited to start this term and to teach the wonderful Year 5 class again- they were brilliant in Year 2 and I can't wait to see them flourish and meet their potential in Year 5.

I will teach the class Monday to Thursday and Mrs King will teach every Friday to allow me time for my leadership role. She too is looking forward to teaching the class again and will bring expertise and enthusiasm to enrich your child's learning experience over the next year. We are also lucky enough to have Mrs Ntioudi as our class teaching assistant every morning and on some afternoons.

Our theme this term is '**A Single Thread Does Not Make a Cloth**' This title is inspired by a proverb which originates from the Yoruba people of Nigeria and means that individual efforts are small and fragile on their own: True strength, resilience, and beauty come from weaving individual contributions together. Throughout our learning we will consider the key question. ***How is our culture enriched by diversity?*** We will begin our learning with The Ancient Kingdom of Benin in history as well as a study of the book '**Children of the Benin Kingdom**' by Dinah Orji in English. We will then consider how West African heritage has enriched our culture today through art, textiles and music. We will also think about the contribution of other world cultures and celebrate the backgrounds and diversity of our class, considering how each one of us brings something unique and special to our school family. In science we will learn about Earth, Space and Light and this learning will be enhanced by our English unit where we will study the book **Hidden Figures** by Margot Lee Shetterly which is a true story of African-American women mathematicians who calculated flight paths for NASA's space missions during the civil rights era as well as studying the book **Curiosity: The Story of Mars Rover** the story of the search for life on Mars, told from the unique perspective of Curiosity, the Mars Rover sent to explore the red planet.

Alongside this learning, over the course of Year 5 children 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. Our 1st visit will be to The National Marine Aquarium on **Thursday 24th September**. A letter with further details will follow shortly.

Diary Dates:

We will be holding a brief 'Meet the Teacher' meeting in the Year 5 classroom on **Thursday 17th September at 3.15pm**.

Our class assembly will be on **Wednesday 25th November at 9.05am**

Overleaf I have outlined some routines and times for you.

- The classroom door opens at 8.35 am. Please try to arrive promptly to make the most of the morning learning opportunities and to ensure that you are ready and settled for the start of the school day
- Homework and Spellings will be set on a **Thursday** and should be returned the following **Wednesday**. Occasionally homework will be set on Google Classroom and may include extended projects with alternative options. Our 1st homework will come home on Thursday 17th September
- PE will take place every **Tuesday and Thursday**; ideally 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.

Finally, please do not hesitate to speak to one of the Year 5 team if you have any questions or concerns. I am usually around before or after school or I can be contacted via email: s.field@staps.org.uk. Children thrive when home and school can work together as a team-please always ask if you are unsure about anything.

Best wishes,

Miss Field, Mrs King and Mrs Ntioudi