

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to Year 5! We hope you have had a safe and enjoyable summer break. The children have arrived focused and enthusiastic to learn and we are looking forward to an exciting term ahead. As the first year of an upper KS2 class, there is a lot of hard work involved for us all but we can assure you this year is a lot of fun too. In Year 5, children especially enjoy taking on extra responsibilities and privileges as we help them prepare for the independence that comes with secondary education over the coming years.

We hope you will find lots of useful information in this letter and we suggest keeping this letter in a safe place so that you can refer to it as and when needed. Alternatively, this letter can also be found on the school website under Class Pages, Year 5.

Teaching Arrangements

The table below shows you which staff will be with Year 5 on a daily basis so there should always be someone to talk to should you need to see a member of staff.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Y5 Class teacher	Mrs Omar (All day)	Mrs Omar (All day)	Mrs Omar (All day)	Mrs Omar (AM) Mr Vaughan (PM)	Mr Vaughan (All day)
Y5 Teaching assistant	Miss Bennett (AM/PM)	Miss Bennett (AM/PM)	Miss Bennett (AM)	Miss Bennett (AM/PM)	Miss Bennett (AM/PM)

PE

Swimming will start on Wednesday 20th September 2023 for 10 weeks on the following dates:

September: 20th and 27th

October: 4th, 11th 18th and 25th

November: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Please ensure that your child brings in a towel, swimming costume, pair of goggles (optional) and a swimming cap (optional). Girls should be able to remove their own ear studs prior to the swimming session.

Every Friday, children will need to come to school wearing their PE kits (coloured, house T- shirts, black shorts and pumps). During colder months, children can wear black tracksuit bottoms and trainers for outdoor PE.

Class book

Our class book this term is 'The girl who speaks bear' by Sophie Anderson which is a story about a young girl Yanka, who flees her house, looking for answers about who she really is. Yanka embarks on an extraordinary journey as she travels through icy rivers to smouldering mountains and meets an ever-growing herd of extraordinary friends along the way.

Termly topic and project

We will be learning about the Mayas this term and will endeavour to answer the question: Why were the Mayas top of the class? In previous years, children have enjoyed sharing their Mayan projects with children in the same class as well as in other year groups, as it provides them with an opportunity to showcase their independent learning to others. We would like our current Year 5 to

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benefit from the same opportunity and therefore invite them to bring their end-of term projects about an aspect of Maya civilisation **on Monday 23rd October 2023**. Children can choose one or two of the following aspects for their projects:

1. Famous Maya cites and buildings
2. Mayan food/ Cocoa beans and chocolate
3. Mayan houses/clothes
4. Mayan religious beliefs
5. Frederick Catherwood

Children can choose from one of the following formats to present their learning:

- Write a non-chronological report.
- A powerpoint presentation. Children should avoid putting too much writing on the slides – instead they should use bullet points, pictures and prompts on the slides to expand on each bullet point in their own words.
- A 3D model with a detailed written explanation of the chosen aspect.
- A poster/ a minibook /a leaflet.

We will also be having a **Maya Day** during Term 1 on Thursday **5th October** during which children will have the opportunity to dress up as Mayans and take part in a variety of activities to experience what life was like as a Maya. Although dressing-up is optional, we would love as many children as possible to dress up. Please do not feel you need to buy something new as the outfits can be made out of old bed sheets or scraps of material. Please see the attached pictures for costume suggestions.



Homework

Find below the homework timetable for this term, with deadlines and the teacher responsible. In case a homework sheet is lost or misplaced, there are spares available in class.

Day homework set	Subject	Teacher in charge and deadlines
Ongoing activities	Reading	At least 3 times a week with an entry made in Home/School diary by parents/ carers for every time they read. Home/School diary checked by Mrs Omar every Monday.
	Termly Project	Due on: Monday 23rd October 2023 (Mrs Omar)
	TT Rockstars	Once a week for 10 minutes. (Mrs Omar)
Tuesday Maths and English homework will be given on alternate weeks.	Maths/	Due in: Monday (Mrs Omar)
	English	Due in: Monday (Mr Vaughan)
Thursday	Spellings	Spelling test every Thursday (Mrs Omar)



SAINT JOHN'S

Your continued support at home with your child's learning will be much appreciated as time spent helping them with reading, spelling, timetables and other homework activities will enable them to make good progress during the year.

Partnership with Cheltenham College

It gives us great pleasure to inform you that during this year, children will be going to Cheltenham College on Wednesday afternoons to attend DT and Science lessons in their well-equipped labs. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have this opportunity as it will help deepen and enrich our children's learning in these subject areas. This is likely to start after half term and will involve two blocks of five weeks so that all children experience both subjects in specialist environments and with specialist subject teachers from College.

Class Dojo

We very much look forward to keeping in contact with parents and carers via Class Dojo. However, please remember that although Class Dojo allows easier communication of messages and sharing of pupils' work, it is not checked during lesson time or out-of-hours. It should not therefore, be relied upon for communicating urgent messages such as school absences and any last minute changes in pick up arrangements; these should be reported directly to school office.

And finally...

We are all looking forward to an exciting year ahead! We thank you in advance for your support at home. Any queries, please do not hesitate to contact a member of Year 5 staff.

Mrs N Omar, Mr Vaughan and Miss Bennett

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