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10th September 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 5! We would like to begin by letting you know that we have been delighted that the children have settled so quickly into our daily routines and have been busy tackling many challenges in their classes from team building and well-being tasks to starting our new and exciting topics. Overleaf you will find an overview of the jam-packed term ahead which we hope the children are looking forward to as much as we are! There are destined to be many highlights with one particular one being our trip to the Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium on Friday 15th October (details to follow).

Communication is extremely important to us in order to ensure a happy and successful year. As such, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher. There are different ways to get in touch, you can call, email or use ClassDojo if you have any queries or concerns. Also, remember to check www.westfields-jun.hants.sch.uk for the most recent school information, newsletters, dates of events and much more.

What your child needs for the year: As the children move through the school, it is increasingly important for them to become more independent in being ready for their learning and coming to school prepared with all the things they need. This includes a named and complete PE kit which should be in school daily as although we have set days for PE, for various reasons (including bad weather!) these may have to change so we ask that the children always have their kit in school to avoid them missing out on this statutory part of the curriculum.

The children are also encouraged to bring a pencil case with a writing pen (blue), a green pen for editing, pencil, colouring pencils, sharpener, yellow highlighter and a rubber. They will also need to bring their updated reading record in daily. To avoid lost items, we ask that you make sure all items that come into school are clearly named.

Home Learning provides an essential part of children's learning, as well as a really important link between home and school. As last year, home learning will be accessed via ClassDojo with the maths task set via MyMaths. If you have any concerns regarding the children's weekly tasks, please contact us as soon as possible in order that we can address these and support your child to gain the best from their learning and make best progress.

➤ Reading

All children continue to be expected to read regularly at home (including reading to an adult) to ensure that they become skilled, efficient and interested readers who are able to access learning and information presented in a range of forms, as well as enjoy reading for pleasure. We hope that all children in Year 5 will record their home reading in their reading record books at least 5 times a week at home and we would be grateful if you could sign the entries that your child has made and also write a comment about reading at home (ideally twice a week).

➤ Spelling

New for this year, across the school we will be using Spelling Shed, which is a web-based platform, to support the learning of spelling rules and patterns. Spellings will be set each **Tuesday** and will be tested on the following **Monday**. Within class, the children will be taught the spelling rules and patterns prior to being set spelling words to practise. The children's spellings will be set via Spelling Shed and they will be able to practise their words online by completing a variety of exciting games. Similarly to TTRockstars, the children will also have the opportunity to earn points, compete in leagues and edit their individual avatar! The children

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will be shown in school how to use Spelling Shed and their usernames and passwords will be sent home shortly in order for them to begin practising! Please be aware, the use of Spelling Shed through Chrome, Safari or any web browser is free. Alternatively, there is a Spelling Shed app available however this will incur a one-off download charge. If you have any problems with online access, please contact us so that we can support you. We are looking forward to this new and exciting way of supporting our children's spelling development!

➤ Maths

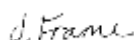
As in previous years, MyMaths home learning tasks will be given weekly. During this year we hope these tasks will support the children in building firm foundations of mathematical skills and having key number facts at their fingertips as instant recall are crucial to children's success in being successful mathematicians. As you know from their Year 4 Multiplication Check results shared with you at the end of the Summer term, it is now expected that all children should have rapid recall of their times table facts by the end of Year 4. As such it is essential for our Year 5 pupils to further master these skills; regular practice on TT Rockstars as well as other means will certainly support their recall of multiplication tables and their general progress across the maths curriculum. There are many games and activities to complete on MyMaths and there is a list of suggested websites under the 'Parent' section of our website. But if you need any guidance, please do not hesitate to ask!

We are all looking forward to a brilliant year and hope you are able to join us for our brief 'Meet the Teacher' session on Thursday 23rd September at 2.45pm.

Kind regards,



Mr D Chaplin
Year 5 Team Leader



Mr J Frame
Class Teacher



Miss D Taylor
Class Teacher