



## Year 5 Autumn Newsletter

### Welcome

The Year 5 team have been delighted with how well the children have started Year 5. They have returned to school so positively and full of enthusiasm and any initial nerves are behind them. We have already spoken about how we are role models for the lower school and that we follow our school values to help build a better One Family that we can flourish in to become the best versions of ourselves. Our first full week has been full of learning in a variety of different forms. Our topic of 'How significant was Basing House?', which is a history-led unit, has started this year and will continue throughout this half-term including our very early in the term trip! During our first week we also explored our school's values of 'Love', 'Courage' and 'Creativity' and the children were reflective and mature in their ideas about what these values mean to them. As discussed at our Y5 information evening (if you were unable to attend, the PPT slides are available), we also recapped on our school's approach to behaviour with 'Turn it Around', which focuses on reflection and restoration of relationships and on the very popular individual stamps for consistent positive behaviours.

### How significant was Basing House?

This is our local-history study where we look at how aspects of national history are reflected in our locality. We visited Basing House to see first-hand how the English Civil War affected the site and to explore the artefacts which teach us more about our local history. In addition, the Civil War Society provided us with a great overview of how people in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century lived and to everyone's delight, the weapons they used! We continue this learning back at school when we explore the features of this time period and the causes of the Civil War as well as learning more about monarchy as a key concept. In the second half of this term we will be learning about outer space through the topic of 'Is anybody out there?'. For further information about the learning in Year 5, please see the attached overview or look at the Year 5 curriculum page on the school website.

### Helping your child at home: Reading, Times Tables and Spelling

In Year 5, as in all of the other years, we are passionate about reading. Keep up the great reading at home. Listening to, reading with and reading to your child all helps in developing comprehension skills and, above all, an enthusiasm for reading itself. Making time in what we know can be a busy day to read for ten to fifteen minutes can really make a huge difference to your child's reading development and is vital for their vocabulary. Some children think that now they are in the upper school, they shouldn't read with an adult or have books read to them. This simply isn't true! Sharing a book (or an audiobook!) with a child can be one of the most amazing experiences and we are working hard to make sure that each child has a book tailored as close to their own interests and ability as possible. Our school's expectation is that your child should be reading at least five times a week and they should record it in their reading record.

Even though we know the children worked hard on Times Tables in Year 3 and 4, we also know that in Year 5 they can become a little rusty so please do keep up the practice at home, whether this is flash cards, chanting, listening to songs or writing them out. The upper school curriculum is dominated by times tables knowledge so if they aren't secure with these it can really affect their maths skills.

Each week we will set spellings as part of homework, again this is so important to support so that the children can progress with their writing skills. The rules we use are from the National Curriculum and also include statutory words which are word lists in the National Curriculum of words which may not follow clear rules.

## **Homework**

We will be continuing to give homework via Google Classroom this year. In Year 5, the children are set the work on a Tuesday with us asking them to submit or return it by the following Tuesday. There is no expectation that the children will have to write down information about their homework – tasks will be given and set through the Google Classroom platform. Each child has their log in details in their reading record. Should there ever be any problems when completing homework, please contact your child's class teacher to avoid any undue worry.

On occasion, your child may come home with a skills card, identifying specific areas in learning which they found challenging in class that day. The teacher will give an example of the learning point and set a few tasks to work on that evening to be returned the following day. Please could you acknowledge receipt of this by signing the card and making any comments you deem necessary. These cards will only be issued on a needs be basis.

## **PE lessons**

In Year 5 our PE lessons are on a Monday (indoor PE) and a Wednesday (outdoor PE). In the colder months, black jogging bottoms can be worn over shorts to come in to school on a Monday.

## **Help always welcome....**

We are always on the lookout for adult helpers who can come in to school (even for a very short amount of time!) to help children with reading and times tables, especially to help our pupils who are unable to do this at home. If you, or perhaps a grandparent, are available please do let the class teacher know. We will be very grateful!

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>10<sup>th</sup> Sep</b>	Year 5 parent briefing meeting (6.00pm, slides are available on the website)
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sep</b>	Year 5 visit Basing House all day
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sep</b>	Children's individual photos at school
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	FOOBS Fun Run
<b>15/16<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Parents' Evenings
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Be Bright, Be Seen day
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Oct – 31<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	Half term
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Nov</b>	INSET day
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Children return to school
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Space Dome at school
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Odd socks day
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Nov – 14<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Friendship Week
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Children in Need
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Whole school flu sprays
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Brunel Class sharing assembly
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	FOOBS Christmas Market
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	Year 5 church visit
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas parties in school for children
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas Carol concert
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	End of term church visits (AM). Christmas dinner at school Last day of school term
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	INSET day
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Dec -2<sup>nd</sup> Jan</b>	Christmas holidays
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	First day back

Should you have any questions or concerns over the coming term, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or another member of the Year 5 team.

Mrs Stephens (Brunel)

Miss McCluskey (Mitchell)

Mrs Gill (White)