

# Merlin Newsletter

## Term 1 – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Welcome to year 5! I am so pleased to be part of the year 5 team along with Miss Bundock, who supports the class every day and Miss Lutenco, Mr Humphries and Miss Wilson who are with us on different days throughout the week.

I am already impressed with the levels of enthusiasm for learning in Merlin class and as a team we are looking forward to an exciting and busy term ahead.

If you have any concerns or anything you wish to talk to any of the Year 5 team about, please do use the newly set up class email to contact me or alternatively arrange an appointment at the office for a phone call or face to face chat.

Miss Chaplin



**This term our learning encompasses a range of curriculum subjects with a Geography focus. Details of this can be found on the curriculum overview on our class page of the website.**

### Home Learning

We encourage all children to read, read, read and if in doubt, read some more!

Every child should be reading for at least 10-20 minutes every day and this can be from a range of texts, it does not have to be a 'school book'. We are going to continue the red contact books where you or your child should record the reading that has taken place. These are checked daily. We will continue the red contact books from last year unless any child needs a new one. We will reward the efforts in reading as and when we see children demonstrating fantastic reading mileage. Our reading ladders will not be used as they were last year. Please never underestimate the value of reading to your child in a shared reading experience as there is lots of research evidence that shows that this is a valuable contribution to your child's reading experience.

In addition to regular reading we will be sending home a class reading scrapbook to encourage reading for pleasure and recommend books to others. Full instructions on how this works will be included inside the scrapbook. It would be lovely for each child to have a turn at creating their own page or pages based on a book and to read and share the other entries with you at home.

### Maths

By year 5 and year 6, it is expected that all children should have fluent recall of their times tables. Children forget them if they are not used, so a regular (daily if possible) quick and short tables quiz would help your child retain what they have learned.

The White Rose 1 minute Maths app is great for quick recall of number facts for all ages and abilities and will complement our daily arithmetic lessons. Please download it on to your phone or tablet so that the children can access this.

## Home Learning continued...

In addition to the app, I would like to send home some arithmetic practice to enable all of the Merlins to feel confident in their recall of numbers and calculations. This will be in the form of small, quick tasks that can be completed and returned. White Rose also provides us with home learning linked to the units we are covering in our lessons so expect to see some of them soon as well. Other home learning may be more bespoke to your child if it is an area of learning that they particularly need to practice.

### Spelling

We have subscribed to Spelling Shed this year and are currently trialing the weekly spelling activities. I will send home these spelling lists in due course so that you can see the type of words and spelling patterns we are focusing on in school. Any learning you can do using these words at home would of course be beneficial.

### Useful websites to support learning:

[KS2 - BBC Bitesize](#) is a great website for English, Maths, Science, French and other subjects. It has activities and explanations. Just click on the year 5 section to find out more.

[Key Stage 2 - Topmarks Search](#) – Again this has some good activities for a range of abilities in KS2 to reinforce our learning in class.

This term PE will take place on a **Monday** and a **Thursday**. Children will be learning Yoga and Netball.

Please ensure children's PE kits are in school every day and that earrings are either removed or can be taped. Long hair should also be tied up for safety reasons.

Every child will be given two books in school. They will either have their Freshstart or colour banded reading text as well as a self chosen 'library book' that they have shown interest in reading. In some instances this may be a text that is too challenging for them to read independently, but they have chosen it for pleasure. Please support them with reading this. They are allowed to bring them home but must return them before choosing the next book. Thank you!

### Reminders!

- Please ensure red contact books and colour band reading books are in school every day.
- No rucksacks in school please...a book bag or drawstring bag only.
- Fresh fruit/ vegetable snacks for break time are encouraged.
- Shoulder length hair or longer should be tied back every day for health and safety reasons.
- Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled as it is very difficult to identify the correct aged 9-10 jumper for your child when they all look the same!