



## Welcome to Year 5!

Welcome to what promises to be an exciting year for our Year 5 children! I am delighted to have your children with me as they embark on this new chapter, filled with fresh challenges and opportunities for both academic and personal growth. After spending time with the children during their transition sessions, I can already sense the energy and enthusiasm in the classroom and I am eager to see what this year will bring. I am here to support both the children and you, so please feel free to reach out if you have any concerns or questions.

### Year 5 Staff

#### **Miss Lawrence (Class Teacher)**

I am incredibly excited to be going into my second year of teaching here at BVPS and feel very lucky to be part of the BVPS team - full of supportive, passionate staff and wonderful children. I'm thrilled to be teaching in Year 5 again this year! I live for all things dance and theatre and I'm already counting down the days until Strictly Come Dancing returns to our screens! With 19 years of performance experience, including at Disneyland Paris, I can't wait to share my passion with the children, especially in my school competition team. I also love a good holiday too - whether it's exploring somewhere new or relaxing with a book in the sun!

#### **Mrs Huxtable and Mrs Turgay (Class Teaching Assistants)**

##### **Mrs Huxtable**

Mrs Huxtable is an experienced TA who knows the school and children well. She is familiar with Year 5 interventions and has a passion for Maths and learning.

##### **Mrs Turgay**

Mrs Turgay is new to the BVPS team this year and she loves everything creative and reading.

We're lucky to be supported by two fantastic teaching assistants. Both will be working closely with the children, supporting learning in class and leading intervention groups to help boost progress and confidence.

### Important Information for Year 5

#### PE Days

Year 5 children will have PE on Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon.

Children should bring their full PE kit and trainers (please see school website for details) at the start of term and leave it in their locker until the end of the half-term. If at any point PE kits need to go home for cleaning/after-school PE club etc, please ensure that they return to school the next day.

In the juniors, we take part in an active session every day which will involve taking part in various physical activities. The children will need a pair of black trainers in their PE bags.

Regular physical activity not only supports healthy bodies but also boosts concentration, confidence, and wellbeing, ensuring children are ready to learn and thrive.

### Hygiene

As children grow and become more independent, we'll help them build good habits, like showering every day and using deodorant. These habits help them feel clean, comfortable and confident. Please encourage your child at home and praise their efforts. Small steps make a big difference. Some girls may begin their periods; we have essentials at school and will support them as needed. Please let us know if you require any help. Working together, we can help every child feel happy and sure of themselves in Year 5!

### Homework

Homework is important because it helps children remember and practice what they learn at school. When children do their homework, they get better at their skills and start to feel more confident. Homework also teaches them how to be organised and responsible, which is useful in school and later in life. If your child tries their best and does their homework, they will strengthen their learning and become more independent. By encouraging and supporting your child with their homework, you help them become a stronger and more confident learner.

Each Friday, they will be given two pieces of homework - one English/Grammar and one Maths - along with their weekly spellings. These are due the following Friday, when we will also have our spelling test. In Year 5, I really encourage children to take responsibility for completing and returning their homework on time. To help your child learn their weekly spellings, here are a few strategies you might find useful: 'look, cover, write, check', recognise the spelling rule, spelling pyramids (writing each word one letter at a time in a pyramid shape, e.g. c, ca, cat), quiz time.

Children should be reading at home at least three times a week. They will have two books: one banded book matched to their reading level and one reading for pleasure book of their own choice. Please support your child by discussing what they're reading and signing their reading record regularly. Encouraging independent reading at home is one of the most valuable ways you can help your child grow as a learner. Take time to ask questions about their books, share your own reading experiences and celebrate each new story or chapter they complete. Even a few minutes of dedicated reading time each evening can boost their confidence, expand their vocabulary and nurture a lifelong love of reading. By showing interest and setting aside time to enjoy books together, you are making a tremendous difference in your child's educational journey. Your enthusiasm and encouragement are key to helping your child see reading not only as a school task but as an enjoyable and rewarding habit.

### Important Dates

#### Guitars: Autumn 1

As part of our Year 5 curriculum, children will have the exciting opportunity to learn to play the guitar during Autumn 1. To truly make progress and enjoy the music they create, it's essential that children take their guitars home regularly and spend time practising. Just as with other homework, practising the guitar builds discipline, boosts memory and helps children develop a sense of achievement as they master new chords and songs. By supporting your child to practise at home, you're helping them build valuable skills - not only in music, but in perseverance and confidence too. Encouraging regular practice will ensure every child

makes the most of this wonderful opportunity and discovers the joy of making music for themselves and others.

**Bikeability:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

In preparation for our Bikeability sessions, it is essential that all children are able to ride a bike independently. Cycling is not only a requirement for taking part in Bikeability, but it is also a fantastic life skill that encourages independence, fitness and confidence. If your child isn't yet able to ride a bike, please don't worry - there are still a few months before the sessions begin, providing a perfect opportunity to practise together and build up their skills. We do have some bikes in school, if you haven't got one at home, please come and speak to the school office. With patience, encouragement and a little bit of perseverance, every child can enjoy the freedom and adventure that comes with learning to ride.

**Swimming:** Summer 1

### Year 5 Online Safety

This year, we are also placing a special emphasis on online safety, ensuring that all children are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the digital world responsibly. This letter contains key information about our approach to fostering a safe and secure online environment.

- Supervise screen time: Know which apps, games, and websites your child uses. Explore new platforms together and talk about what is safe to share online.
- Set clear boundaries: Establish rules for when and where devices can be used, especially before bedtime or during family time.
- Keep conversations open: Encourage your child to tell you if they see or hear anything online that makes them uncomfortable.
- Group chats and messages: Ask your child who they are chatting with and remind them to be kind and respectful online. We do start to see issues in Year 5 with children calling each other, creating polls, sharing images, and sometimes sending inappropriate messages. Regularly check in with your child about their group chats and encourage them to speak up if something worries them. It would be advisable to take the phones off the children at bedtime.
- Social media guidance: Many social media platforms—including TikTok and WhatsApp—have age restrictions (usually 13+). We do not recommend these apps for Year 5 children. If your child does use them, help them set the highest privacy settings, discuss what is appropriate to share, and remind them not to accept contact requests from people they don't know. Remind your child that anything posted online can be seen by others and is often hard to delete.
- If your child has a phone: Regularly check the device together, review privacy settings, and monitor messages, chats, and downloads. Remind them to never give out personal information or passwords.
- It's great to wait: If your child does not have a phone yet, consider waiting until the end of Year 6. This allows them to mature and better understand online risks before having more independence.
- Phones in school: Remind children that phones should not be brought into school. This keeps everyone focused on learning and helps protect privacy.

By staying involved and keeping communication open, you can help your child build safe and healthy online habits for life.

I'm truly excited to welcome your children as they begin this new chapter in their education. This year, we'll work together as a team-with you-to help them grow in independence and responsibility. Above all, we'll create a classroom where respect and kindness are valued every day.

Best regards,

Miss Lawrence, Mrs Huxtable and Mrs Turgay