

# Autumn 1 Newsletter

## Year 5



**A huge warm welcome back to the new academic year to all of our parents and children!**

We know it has been a very testing and unusual few months but we are thrilled to be welcoming the children back to school and getting back to a little more normality!

We are super excited for the impending academic year that will be filled with lots of exciting topics, lessons and learning experiences for the children. Please take note of the following bullet points which may answer some questions you have regarding your child's return to school.

- Children must bring to school their Chapelford Book Bags or bags that are able to fit into their trays. At this point for health and safety reasons, **we are unable to facilitate backpacks or rucksacks larger than these and these will not be able to remain in the classroom.**
- PE will take place each week. Your child must have their PE kit in school which will remain in school. Children should arrive at school in their usual school uniforms on PE days as normal.
- Children should not bring their own pencil cases or stationary into school as equipment is provided for the children.
- If your child requires to bring their mobile phone into school, a mobile phone agreement must be signed and returned to school prior to this. Please see your child's class teacher should you require a copy of this.

### Reading

Your child will take part in Guided Reading sessions with their teacher up to twice per week. Following one of their Guided Reading sessions, we will send home a copy of their book banded text. **It is expected that children will re read the chapter or section that they have been focusing on in class to build fluency and pace.**

Please support us by sending your child's reading record into school each day and encouraging your child to read each night. It is our expectation that the children read **5 times per week** and that their reading record is signed by a parent of guardian. One of the children's 5 times reading must be their re reading of their banded book but, other than this, the children can read a variety of texts, including newspapers, leaflets, fiction books or reading plus!

### English

Throughout our first half term, we will be reading the text 'Queen of the Falls' by Chris Van Allsburg which tells the story of Annie Edson Taylor's epic journey down Niagara Falls in a barrel! We look forward to the children writing for a range of different opportunities throughout this topic, including diaries, recounts and post cards.

Within our Guided Reading sessions, we will also be reading a range of extracts from 'Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls', with a focus of making inferences and justifying these with evidence.

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### Maths

In our Mathematics learning, we will be consolidating our knowledge of place value this half term and beginning to look at calculation too. As well as this, we will be continuing to gain fluency and speed with our times tables up to  $12 \times 12$ .

Remember your child has access to MyMaths and Times Tables Rockstars so any additional learning or practice they can do at home will hugely help to support the work we are doing in class.

### Wider Curriculum

We completely appreciate what a huge change coming back to school is for our children and while, for some, it is a welcome change to get back to a familiar environment with their peers, we also know for some that this transition is not an easy one. In light of this, we will be taking part in daily mindfulness sessions and weekly PSHCE sessions where the children will have to opportunity to discuss their thoughts and feelings.

As well as our core subjects of Maths, English and Reading, we will also be starting our newest Science, Religious Education and Physical Education topics this half term so there is lots to look forward to!

### Catch Up Phone Calls

We appreciate that it has been a lengthy period for your child to be away from school and their routine and we value completely the hard work you have dedicated at home to continue your child's learning away from school.

Over the next two academic weeks (**Weeks commencing 14<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> September**) your class teacher will make contact with you via phone call between the hours of 3.30 and 4.30 pm. This call will be to discuss how your child has settled back into school and to celebrate the learning and activities they have taken part in whilst away from school as well as discuss any queries or concerns you might have. If the above time or dates are inconvenient, please don't hesitate to email your child's class teacher and we will of course provide an alternative date or time.

### Getting in touch...

While the children are adjusting to being back at school, we also appreciate that this may take a little time to get used to for our parents too! Please be assured that if you have a query or concern, however small, we are always here to support you and your child in any way we can. At this point, please try to avoid approaching your child's class teacher at the door due to social distancing guidelines, however we will be available to contact via telephoning the school office or through email too.

One again, a huge warm welcome back and we look forward to speaking to you all soon!

**The Year 5 Team** 😊

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