



September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! The children have all made a great start to Year 5 and Mrs Beatham and I are already delighted with their hard-working attitude.

To help you support your child, a half-termly curriculum overview is on the school website detailing the different areas we will be covering in each subject. Our first theme is A Kingdom United and we are already enjoying learning about legends of the British Isles in literacy and learning the geography of the UK. If you wish for a paper copy of the overview, please ask.

As in previous years, homework will be issued to children on a Thursday and should be completed by the following Tuesday. The homework will usually be a page of mental maths and a page of grammar work. I will talk through the grammar homework with the class each Thursday, so each child should have a good understanding when they complete it. The mental maths is in 3 parts (A - easiest section, B - a little harder and C- word problems and the most challenging section). You may wish to tackle different sections on different days. Section C is the one they may need help on.

As well as written homework, children will also have a home reading book which they choose themselves. Please encourage your child to read daily and to talk about the books they read. We will also read in a small group in class. These group reading sessions will be led by a member of staff and will provide children with the opportunity to look closely at the way authors create texts.

Each week we will work on spelling, looking closely at how words are formed and exploring a variety of spelling strategies. Children will bring a list of spelling words home on a Monday and will be tested on them the following Monday. Children will also have regular times tables tests to help to improve their mental calculations. Please support your child in learning their times tables.

During Year 5, we will continue to attend swimming lessons at Kirkham Baths. Our lessons will take place on a Wednesday afternoon and children are required to bring the following items with them each week:

- Girls - a one piece swimming costume (no bikinis or tankinis allowed)
- Boys - swimming trunks which are a tight fit and above the knee
- A towel
- A tissue
- A swimming cap for all girls and any boy with a fringe that goes over his eyes.

Please note that if you child has a verruca this must be treated with Bazuka gel before coming to school that day or a verruca sock must be worn.

Thank you for sending PE kits in promptly. Our PE lesson will take place on a Tuesday afternoon. Please ensure all PE tops, shorts and pumps are named.

In Year 5, one of the exciting changes is that all children have the opportunity to take part in instrumental music lessons. These lessons are free of charge and pupils can learn the saxophone or clarinet. Lessons will be on a Monday afternoon and are led by Mrs Lamb from Lancashire Music Service. In order to be able to bring the instrument home, I will send a permission slip for you to sign. This will only be after half term as they need to learn how to put it together and look after it first.

Finally, I know that many of the children in the class are already talking about the trip to Hothersall Lodge with great excitement. This trip is entirely optional and there is no obligation for your children to attend ~ however all the children who have taken part in the last few years have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The provisional dates are Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Thank you for your continued support and please feel free to pop in school if you have any questions. I am usually in the junior playground at the end of the day as well.

Many thanks,

Ms Norris