



Year 5 Autumn 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 5 and Upper Key Stage 2! I hope you have all had a relaxing and restful summer and are excited to get back to school. I am so thrilled to be teaching Year 5. It really is a wonderful year and I can't wait to get to know all of your children.



Once again, our class names are named after role models who inspire us. Our class name in year 5 is Vashti Harrison. She is a talented artist and writer who celebrates diversity and black history through her books and illustrations. Her books help children feel seen, heard and proud of who they are!

In **Literacy**, we will be reading the book Beowulf; this is Michael Morpurgo's poetic retelling of the tale of an epic hero and the infamous monster Grendel. It will provide rich opportunities for the pupils to reach into the depths of their imagination to produce creative pieces. From newspaper reports to emotive diary entries, children will be developing their grammar, punctuation and spelling through stimulating, rich outcomes.

In **Maths** this half term, we will build on our knowledge of place value by looking at numbers up to one million. We will practise rounding and look at powers of ten. Children will continue to solve tricky problems to develop their reasoning and depth in learning. I encourage everyone to get back into their times tables as this is the cornerstone upon which all our maths this year is founded! Times table rockstars is a great website to use but there are lots of fun ways to practise. A few minutes a night makes all the difference.

In **Science**, our first topic is, 'Living Things and their habitats.' In it we will be investigating the life cycle of plants and animals. The children will carry out simple class based investigations and devise their own methods for recording, questioning and evaluating. This unit builds on work from previous years and deepens the children's understanding of life cycles, reproduction and animal characteristics. New concepts such as asexual reproduction and metamorphosis are introduced to help the children understand how life cycles can differ.

In **History**, we'll be kicking things off with an in depth look at the Anglo-Saxon struggle for power in England. We'll travel back in time to learn about why they invaded and what life was like during this fascinating but relatively mysterious time. Children will discover who these people were and how they helped shape the Britain we know today.

In **Worldviews and Religion**, we will be investigating historical and modern day examples of people who have fought for their beliefs under the title: 'Why do people have to stand up for what they believe in?' The children will secure skills including being able to use clues to determine someone's belief about God; assess different points of view; articulate the importance of Guru Hargobind's inclusivity of others and consider various viewpoints surrounding religious prejudice.



In **Design and Technology**, we will start the year by looking at the foods the Anglo-Saxons made and cooking some of these ourselves, concentrating on issues of seasonality and a balanced diet.

In **P.E.**, the class will have sessions with Wes on **Thursday** afternoons and **Friday** after breaktime.

In **PSHE** (Personal, Social, Health Education) we will be learning all about our own wellbeing; physical, emotional and mental. We will be thinking about all the ways that we can look after all parts of our health.

In **Music**, the children will be taking part in a sensation workshop run by Kinetica Bloco, a performance group specialising in drummers and steel pan. They create a "unique new British Carnival sound with a decidedly London edge" (BBC Radio2), drawing influences from the Caribbean, Brazil, Africa and New Orleans. I personally can't wait to hear the results!

In **Computing** we will be focused on programming using Scratch. The children will learn how to create their own computer game, based on the Beowulf/Grendel battle.

For homework this first half term, we will be continuing with project-based learning as we did last year. Please see your child's homework book for the homework grid which contains further information. Homework is due on Friday 17th October for an exhibition. We will also have a spelling test on Friday afternoons.

Reading continues to be the most useful and important thing you can do at home with your child. In key stage 2 they should be reading for at least 20 minutes independently every night. Reading records will be checked every Friday by me. Fridays will be our 'Book Club' session where we will share what we've been reading with peers, make recommendations and generally just chill and read!

We have a school library brimming with exciting books so please encourage children to take some home to read and ensure they are returned to school regularly. If you need any help with book suggestions please let me know- I absolutely love getting to know the children as readers and learning the kinds of books they enjoy so I can make good recommendations. **Please could you make sure your child brings their reading book to school every day so that I can take the opportunity to hear them read or chat to them about their book.**

A reminder that we have all the resources and stationery children need in the classrooms, children do not need to bring in their own pens and pencils into school.

If you have any questions, concerns or problems please do not hesitate to come and see us.

Kind Regards,

Ciara