

Year 5/6 Welcome Information 2020-2021

- Welcome back everyone!! - we are SO excited to welcome all our pupils back after so long!
- We are very aware that some pupils will have been in school throughout the pandemic and others will be returning for the first time since March. We are aware that some of your children may be feeling anxious about the return to school and we just want to reassure you that we will do everything in our power to keep your children safe.
- Mr Hoyer will have sent you detailed information about Covid specific logistics outlining how we plan to operate for the foreseeable future -please read this guidance carefully as we will not be covering it in this letter.

Team and Year Group Introductions

- Year 5/6 staff consists of Mrs Swithinbank (Mon-Weds) and Miss Miller (Weds-Fri) who are Year Group Leaders and share the teaching of Guppy, Miss Boyce (Brunel), Mr Hughes (Campbell), Mrs Mullick (Cabot), Mr Allcock (Muller) and Mrs Lancaster who will support us with Maths.
- We also have our fantastic Learning Support Team - Mrs Moore, Mrs Earnshaw and Mr Brently.
- We are very much a team and we plan everything together and regularly communicate with each other about how children are getting on.
- We are a fantastic year group with lots of different opportunities to encourage independence as much as possible! Despite Covid restrictions, this year is going to be fun, engaging and challenging!
- Getting ready for secondary school is key– organisation – encourage children to be responsible as much as possible for PE kits, homework etc.
- Email is the best way of communication and will be checked daily. Staff emails are so follow:
 - guppy@stjohnsprimary.org.uk
 - brunel@stjohnsprimary.org.uk
 - campbell@stjohnsprimary.org.uk
 - muller@stjohnsprimary.org.uk
 - cabot@stjohnsprimary.org.uk
- If absent, please notify the office via phone or email.

What to bring in to school:

- As lunchtimes are staggered now and not starting until 12.30 - please bring in a healthy snack.
- As bags will be stored under tables - please only bring in one bag with ESSENTIAL items - reading book, water bottle, healthy snack, tissues (hand sanitiser & hand cream optional)
- All stationary and work books will be provided. Each child will be given their own set.
- Please **do not bring in** birthday fruit - alternatively you may wish to buy a book for the class library.

Curriculum:

- This year, one of our whole school focuses is developing the curriculum to make it as relevant and engaging as possible. Our topics this year are: Anglo-Saxons/Vikings, Bella Italia, Intergalactic and then a play-based topic next summer. Any parent expertise is welcome as always - please email the class teacher if you have any knowledge/resources that could support our topics.

- We try to teach as cross curricular as possible with many subjects linking to each other. Each topic will have a book linked closely to it which will form much of our writing work, for example our Anglo-Saxon topic will be linked to Beowulf.
- Each topic will have a wow day/experience, and we continue to endeavour to make it as fun and engaging as possible despite Covid restrictions - for example, we have already booked our visitors for our Anglo-Saxon Day experience (all Covid safe)!

PE:

- As we are not changing in school - please make sure the children **COME IN PE KIT** those days (ensure its weather appropriate, including daps/trainers, black or blue bottoms and a plain navy t-shirt. No jewellery – studs and watches to be taken off for PE.) STARTING W/C 7th
- Monday - Campbell/Muller
- Wednesday - 9th of September - 1th of October - Muller, Campbell, Brunel, Cabot
- 14th of October - 11th of November - Muller, Cabot, Guppy
- 18th of November - 16th of December - Guppy, Campbell, Brunel
- Friday - Cabot/Brunel/Guppy

Maths

- We will start this year by focusing on key objectives, including re-capping the previous year's objectives.
- Children will be taught through mixed inputs, clear differentiation and through a mixture of practical/written tasks.
- Challenge – through greater depth tasks as opposed to moving on to next year group's objectives.
- Homework – mostly on Google Classroom. Some homeworks will be based on Mathletics and other interactive games.
- Some children may be sent additional homework to consolidate when necessary.
- Mathletics – children have log-ins and can use them whenever they like at home.
- Times tables – it is a government expectation that all children can rapidly recall all times tables up to 12x12 by the end of Y4. If you know that your child is unable to do this, it is vital that they are doing additional work at home to support this to prevent them from falling behind when trying to access the Y5/6 objectives – many of these are underpinned by times table knowledge and understanding.

English

Initially we will be focusing on building stamina and developing confidence in all areas of writing.

Spelling - within classes we will revisit spelling patterns and assess where the children are.

- SpellingShed – we will provide chn with logins in the next few weeks. Please encourage chn to go on as much as possible.
- Children have a personal spelling dictionary each to record any spellings they are unfamiliar with/need to practise.
- Please refer to the website for a list of Y5/6 words – not specifically tested in school but we pick out topic relevant ones to use in English/Topic where possible.

Reading -

- Children will be heard reading individually as often as possible.
- Guided Reading sessions 3x a week – consist of a mixture of whole class and small group teaching with each session focussing on different skills.
- They will also be given logins for ReadTheory (online reading comprehension) and can access this from home as well.
- There is an expectation that children read in school everyday and at home.
- In these first few weeks we will ensure that every child is listened to and will be allocated a reading book appropriate to their ability.
- Reading to your child and having a discussion about what you have read is also extremely valuable. It is also an opportunity to gauge their understanding of what they are reading.
- Reading Bingo – new for this year!

Rewards

Children can be rewarded:

- JPs – exclusive to Year 5/6! (St John's Pounds).
- House system/house points will be rewarded.
- Head Teacher Certificates for outstanding work/effort

Independence:

- Please encourage independence at home too, for example letting your children remember **to wear their PE kit** and reading diaries etc. – helpful skills to develop now with Secondary School in sight.
- Children are also allowed to walk to and from school alone providing we have a permission slip in school. School no longer sending out paper copies – all done online. Letters will be emailed out (also on website) so please ensure this is completed should your child be walking on their own.
- They may also bring phones into school if needed for their journey. If they do this, they must not be used once in school, including the playground (unless to call/text to say they have arrived) and must be handed to the class teacher at the start of the day to be locked in the safe.

Helping at home:

- Please hear your child read regularly as stated above.
- Practise Times Tables regularly.
- Maths packs on the website – these are year group specific and change on a termly basis. Please use these as they are a useful resource full of activity ideas and tasks.
- Most homework (including Topic) will be set on Google Classroom.
- Any problems with homework children please email your class teacher.
- We **recommend ½ hour per piece**; if your child takes longer than this it will probably mean it's too difficult and therefore they need to come and see their teacher.

Key dates:

- Anglo Saxon Day (Portals to the Past) - 17th and 18th September (1 slot per class)
- Children will be able to dress up on this day! More details to follow...

