



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our Year 5/6 class. I hope that you all had a super summer holiday period and that your children are as excited as we are to be back in school and to be able to mix with other year groups indoors as well as outdoors. Year sixes have already taken their places on the benches in school assemblies and are being amazing role models for the younger children.

This newsletter outlines some of the routines and procedures that will be in place in your child's class, as well as some of the areas of learning we will focus on this term.

What really caused the sinking of RMS Titanic?



Many of the children spent time during their summer holiday finding out about RMS Titanic. We will be sharing all of their hard work and fact-finding next week, as we begin our learning about this topic. Some of the children already have an understanding that there were many factors contributing to this tragic event. Our lessons and a planned trip to Southampton Seacity Museum on

Wednesday 6th October will help us answer our topic question with well-founded reasons. Further details about our trip will follow in due course.

Reading



Reading regularly for pleasure and growing into life-long readers is something that we encourage. In Chestnut Class, we firmly believe that ...

In Year 5/6, children will be expected to read at home for **at least 20 minutes five times a week**, immersing themselves in their texts and practising to read with fluency. This should be a mixture of independent reading and reading aloud to an adult. Children (and adults) of any age benefit from and love being read to - please continue to enjoy reading to your child.



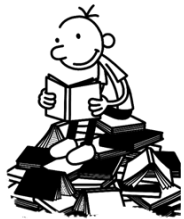
Research shows that reading with your child is the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. When your child reads to you, please take the time to ask questions about the text to develop their comprehension skills and to ensure that your child can pronounce and understands unknown vocabulary.

**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.**

-Dr. Seuss

Understanding and using more complex language is also an expectation of Year 5/6 and therefore, children are expected to find the definitions of unknown vocabulary in their reading.

Reading Records



Your child's home reading diary and independent reading book should be brought to school every day. In their reading diary, children should share what they have read and how much they have read, which in turn should be signed by a parent/guardian on, at least, three occasions each week.

The reading diary will be collected and checked each **Friday** - if there are three signed entries in the diary, your child will receive a raffle ticket, which will be entered into our weekly reading raffle, giving the winner the opportunity to pick a new book from our 'Reading Raffle' shelf.

The home reading diary is an important way of monitoring pupils' reading habits and preferences and I hope that you will encourage your child to record their regular home reading as in the example below.

Date	Title	Pages Read	Parent's signature	Teacher's signature
9 th September	Holes by Louis Sachar	P12 to p34	Mrs J Smith	K Prudence/ S Goacher
12 th September	Holes by Louis Sachar	P34 to p56	Mr M Jones	K Prudence/ S Goacher

Spelling

Most of the English language spelling follows rules and conventions. Learning about these rules means that pupils will be able to apply this knowledge to the spelling of words they have not met in print before. Spelling tests can ensure that spelling words are learned but it is essential that pupils understand, remember and use them confidently in their writing.



Therefore, rather than a weekly test, the emphasis is on an investigative approach to learning spelling rules - pupils learn to identify the rules and patterns enabling them to apply their learning independently in their writing.

Developing appropriate spelling strategies is something that will also be encouraged. At home, children are expected to learn how to spell the words, which are examples of the rule or pattern taught, using whatever strategy they find the most effective.

Spelling and literacy Homework



Pupils will be required to carry out a weekly spelling investigation which will be set each Monday and should be submitted by Friday of the same week. Mrs. Goacher and I will also work with pupils in small groups or as individuals to discuss and assess their understanding throughout the week. Spelling homework will be accessible to pupils on our Google classroom.



Mathematics



In mathematics, children will be encouraged to develop efficient mental strategies, speed and accuracy when solving written calculations using the four operations. To help with quick recall of number bonds and times table facts, pupils will complete a timed **Maths Matters Challenge** in class. To support this, children are encouraged to learn and practise their multiplication and division facts regularly. (The **Topmarks** website is useful for practising selected skills.)

Mathematics homework will be set to consolidate what the children have done in class and provide opportunities for pupils to investigate and apply their learning across a range of mathematical contexts, whilst other homework will be set to keep skills sharp. Pupils will have a home learning workbook in which to complete their mathematics homework.

Topic Home Learning



Pupils may also be expected to complete a home learning task related to the term's topic. These tasks normally involve a range of activities allowing pupils to choose those that appeal most closely to their interests. Information about expectations and deadlines will be shared with the children in school and on our Google classroom as necessary.



Chestnut Google Classroom

Much of your child's homework will be set on our Google classroom, allowing your child to access their work in school and at home. Please ensure that your child knows their Google login details and regularly checks our online classroom for important information. You can find your child's login details in their homework diary.

Literacy and mathematics homework will be set on alternate Tuesdays (literacy one week and mathematics the next week and so on) and will be a variety of online and jotter work. Literacy and mathematics homework should be submitted or returned to school on the following Tuesday.

Chestnut Class Weekly Overview

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>P.E. kit (To be kept in school all week)</p> <p>Reading diary/Independent reading book</p> <p>Spelling homework set</p> <p>Spelling workbook</p> <p>Maths Matters workbook</p>	<p>P.E. kit</p> <p>Reading diary/Independent reading book</p> <p>Mathematics/literacy homework set and returned. (Literacy/mathematics on alternate weeks.)</p> <p>Spelling workbook</p> <p>Maths Matters workbook</p>	<p>P.E. kit</p> <p>Reading diary/Independent reading book</p> <p>Spelling workbook</p> <p>Maths Matters workbook</p>	<p>P.E. kit</p> <p>Reading diary/Independent reading book</p> <p>Spelling workbook</p> <p>Maths Matters workbook</p>	<p>P.E. kit</p> <p>Reading diary/Independent reading book</p> <p>Spelling homework submitted</p> <p>Reading diaries Checked.</p> <p>Spelling workbook</p> <p>Maths Matters workbook</p>

Music

During the autumn term, pupils will have a music lesson every Thursday morning.

P.E.

Mr. Johnson of AAA Coaching will continue to teach P.E. to Year 5/6 on Friday afternoons (beginning Friday 10th September). I will teach P.E. every Tuesday afternoon.

Please make sure that your child's P.E. kit is clearly labelled with your child's name.

Independence

Developing independence is an important part of being in Chestnut Class in preparation for the move to secondary school at the end of Year six. The children learn to be increasingly responsible for their own learning, expectations are high and they are encouraged to work independently. At home, you can support this by helping to develop your child's independence and encouraging them to be responsible. Children should pack their own bag for school, be responsible for their homework tasks and submit their homework on time

How can I help my child in Chestnut Class?



Below, are some of the ways that you can help your child do well in Year 5/6:

- Make sure that you know what homework is set and encourage your child to complete it thoroughly.
- At home, encourage your child to read quietly for 20 minutes each day.
- Find opportunities for your child to use numbers in everyday situations and encourage them to calculate 'in their head'.
- Encourage your child's curiosity and an enquiring mind by talking to them about their interests.
- Try to keep up-to-date with what your child is learning at school and talk regularly about it.
- Help your child to be 'Ready to Learn' and well rested when they come to school.

The children will be introduced to these routines during the first two weeks of the term.

We are all very much looking forward to working with you and your children during an exciting and rewarding year of learning in Chestnut Class.

Please feel free to speak to me on the playground in the morning or at the end of the day. You can also email the office to make an appointment to discuss more specific matters.

Many thanks,

Karen Prudence (Chestnut Class Teacher)

Mrs Goacher

Mrs Pearmaine

Mrs Clements