



Year Five:Autumn 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter will provide you with some important information about the coming term, when your child will be entering the wonderful world of Year Five.

As you may already know, Corduroy Class will be taught by Miss Hill and Tweed Class will be taught by Miss Farouk for the first half of Autumn Term. From the start of the second half of Autumn Term, Miss Saullo will be back from Maternity Leave and will be taking over Tweed class part time.

This is an important and exciting year, as we look to consolidate and master past learning and to deepen our understanding of key concepts required for Key Stage 2.

English

In Upper Key Stage 2, your child will encounter a wide range of engaging texts and will be exposed to different styles and intentions of writing. They will be encouraged to use their skills in a broader range of concepts and to apply their knowledge of grammar and punctuation, spelling and vocabulary. As in Year Four, the focus of this term will be on gaining a secure understanding of word classes, sentence structure and punctuation. Writing will be purposeful and will aim to inform or entertain. We will interweave specific grammatical teaching into exciting core texts and stimuli. Children will focus on drafting, editing and re-drafting their own work, as well as taking part in peer review tasks and group discussions/activities. Furthermore, children will have regular handwriting and spelling practice during the week, as well as weekly free writing, guided reading and Bedrock Vocabulary sessions.

Supporting your child's learning

There are lots of ways to support your child, but it is important to remember that the best way you can help your child, is by ensuring that they enjoy learning—so try not to force things. Take the time where possible, to encourage your child to share their stories and interests aloud, as well as positively challenging them to check over their written work using a dictionary or even using a thesaurus to elevate. Attractive pens, paper and notebooks are a great way to get children interested in writing too. Perhaps you can encourage them to write a thank you card to a friend or relative or even recruit them to draft an email or letter for you whilst you speak aloud.

Reading has so many fantastic benefits and we hope your child has now developed a firm passion for reading. If this is not the case, don't worry. Keep encouraging your child to explore a variety of genres, book lengths and areas of interest. Children should be reading at home for approximately **20 minutes per night** - this should be recorded in their reading records (they can record, or you can) by writing a meaningful comment



about what they have read. This can take the form of jotting down opinions, themes they've noticed, links to other texts or challenging vocabulary they've encountered etc. Ask questions about what has happened/how the character may feel. Discuss with your child the author's choice of words and description. Why not share some of your favourite authors from when you were their age, or perhaps you may choose to read the same book alongside them. The more support and sharing the better.

Reading records will be monitored fortnightly by teaching staff to ensure that children are reading a range of quality texts. Please ensure that your child has their reading book and record with them in school **every day**. Children may choose a book from our collection or one from home. Encourage your child to discuss what they have read and noticed in books.

Maths

At The Belham, we follow the "Maths - No Problem" (MNP) scheme of work. MNP encourages a discussion around the many methods and strategies used to tackle a concept, thus trying to break the idea that maths is rigid and only has one answer/method. We often explore this as a whole class and use concrete, pictorial and then abstract (CPA) methods to ensure that your child has a deep understanding of the place value system. We will begin with exploring Place Value with numbers to 1,000,000, before we go on to consolidate our work on Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. At the same time, we will continue to embed reasoning and problem solving opportunities into lessons. Regular times tables practice is essential and your child will still have a free subscription to "Times Tables Rockstars".

Supporting your child's mathematical learning at home:

Try where possible, to make children feel confident in Maths by keeping it light hearted and fun! Seek opportunities in real life contexts, to use applied mathematics: converting recipe ingredients, calculating change in shops or estimating journey lengths. Much of the knowledge in Year 5 relies on number facts being easily recalled. For example, to find common factors or to make simple conversions, knowledge of multiplication tables is essential. Any practice at home to keep these skills sharp will truly help. Look for and discuss patterns and similarities in times tables (songs are a great way to practise.) You might also consider downloading apps that help them to practice their Mental Maths skills too. When calculating, encourage your child to "show their workings out", or even challenge them to show "How many different ways can you work out your answer?"

Wider Curriculum

At The Belham, we pride ourselves on delivering a broad and 'glittering' curriculum and we hope that Year Five will continue to nurture your child's love of learning and creativity. We plan engaging lessons in all subject areas, and provide many opportunities to support and deepen past and future learning.



In **Science** we will be investigating “Properties and changes of material” and then moving on to “Earth and Space.”

Geography and **History** alternate each half term, but we will be exploring The British Empire and then our “Changing World.”

In **RE** we’ll be looking at Hinduism - beliefs and practices. These subjects, as well as Spanish, Computing, Music, Art and DT will have cross curricular links to each other and our core texts, giving a diverse and rich learning experience. Anything that you could do to help inspire interest and imagination around these subject areas would be greatly appreciated.

Your child will be given a recorder this year to play in their **curriculum music** lessons which are based on ensemble music making. Please help your child to bring their recorder to school **every THURSDAY** and encourage them to practise in between lessons if they want to gain the most from the experience. There is no charge for these lessons or the loan of the instrument but, if your child loses it, replacement costs (from £10 for a descant to £200 for a bass recorder) will be charged to your Schools buddy account.

Furthermore, in the Autumn Term, we also look forward to lots of whole school events such as CRAZE week, Black History week, National Poetry Day, Parents’ Evening, Anti-Bullying week, UN Human Rights Day and of course, the fabulous Christmas Productions. We will continue to keep you updated via our ClassDojo account.

Physical Development & Outside Learning

It is vital that children have their school PE kit (including trainers) in school (in a draw-string bag with their name on) with them each week—we suggest that they bring it in on Monday and take it home on Friday as often PE lessons may be moved to accommodate other activities.

Our PE lessons will be on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**.

Trips and Visits

We hope to start Year 5 with some exciting events and workshops in school. If you have any suggestions or contacts who may be able to help or deliver sessions or virtual workshops linked to any of our topics, please get in touch with your child’s teacher. Due to COVID-19 we will be assessing the planning of school trips, with the view to eventually build back up to our usual frequency of out of school experiences. Please look out for updates about signing up to volunteer on upcoming trips.



Reminders

- Please ensure that your child has a labelled water bottle in school.
- Please ensure that your child has their labelled PE kit in school all week.
- Please encourage your child to bring their reading record in daily.

With warmest regards,

The Year 5 Team

Christina Saullo (Tweed Class teacher)
Farah Farouk (Tweed Class teacher)
Jennifer Hill (Corduroy Class teacher)
Alicja Drabek (Support Staff)