



## **Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope you all had a lovely Summer break and managed to have some time together to relax and enjoy the beautiful weather we had. The children have been settling in amazingly so far and the year 5s are getting used to the routines and structure of Squirrel class brilliantly. I'm looking forward to a fabulous year with them.

This year, Squirrels will be supported in class by Mrs Hix and Mrs Ridgeway. Mr Beresford will be teaching both PE lessons and Mrs Carrington will now be teaching Squirrels on a Friday morning with Mrs Ridgeway teaching RE in the afternoon.

## **PE**

This year, Squirrels will be doing PE on a Wednesday and Friday – please ensure children come to school in their PE kits and trainers on these days. If the weather is wet, then please send them with dry socks and shoes as we will still try and get them outside whenever possible. If we have a competition, notice will be given of when this is so children know to come in PE kit on these days too. If you have a child with ear piercings that cannot be removed, then please send tape or plasters so these can be covered.

No other jewellery should be worn (on any day), other than a pair of studs while ears are healing. A watch may be worn (not a smart watch) but is the child's own responsibility. If children do come in with other jewellery on, they will be asked to remove it and either keep it safe themselves or it can be kept safe in the office. Please also ensure long hair is tied back each day.

## **Spellings**

New spellings will be taught on a Friday and tested the following Friday. Children will receive a list of spellings to take home at the start of each half term – it will also be available on the website. A list of the year 5/6 statutory words will also be sent home this half term. These are included within some group's spellings tests, but are handy to have so you are aware of the words the children are expected to know and include in their writing.

## **Homework**

Both year groups will be given weekly homework from each of their CGP books (one maths and one English) that will support learning that has taken place in lessons. Homework will be handed out on a Monday and is expected in the following Monday for marking and feedback. If a CGP homework book is lost, then we request that a replacement be purchased so homework can continue. £s are given out for homework being completed and returned on time.

## **Reading**

Reading is important throughout the school and we promote a positive reading environment in our classroom. All children will have at least one reading book that they are able to bring between home and school. Children are encouraged to read every day, be it at home or at school, and we will always have a class text that we are reading together in class. This may sometimes be linked to topic or just a reading for pleasure text. Each child has a reading record that is also expected to come between home and school where adults can also write comments when they have read with their child. It is important that the reading record comes back to school each day. We also have a reading journal that is given to a different child to take home each week to write about their favourite book, which they then present to the class when it is returned.



I understand home life can be very busy, so I appreciate your support in helping children learn their spellings, complete homework and ensure they read. It helps extend their knowledge, practise their oracy, promote a positive learning attitude and prepare them for secondary school.

Children can bring a small bag to school (plus a lunch box/bag), if necessary, but no big backpacks / bags please, as we have very limited cloakroom space!

The class webpage will be updated each half term with what we are learning and getting up to in class. There will also be a copy of the topic web; a printed copy of this will also be sent home towards the start of each half term.

If you have any questions or concerns then please don't hesitate to ring the school office or make an appointment to have a chat.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Barrett