**Year 5/6 – Class Newsletter**

**Autumn 2017**

Welcome back to a new school term. We hope you all had an enjoyable Summer break. It is lovely to see the children back after the holiday and they have all settled really well so far into the new school routine.

This is our Autumn Term newsletter which provides a brief overview of what we will be up to this term.

Please see the attached topic grid for an overview of this term’s curriculum:

**Homework:**

Y5 Reading each day (20-25 minutes), weekly spellings, multiplication tables, maths activity, choose one activity each week from the Homework Grid.

Y6 Reading each day (20-25 minutes), weekly spellings, multiplication tables, maths activity, choose one activity each week from the Homework Grid.

**Homework Grids**

A homework grid for the first half of the Autumn Term is attached which details 4 compulsory tasks (shaded in purple) to be completed over the course of the half term which should be handed in by the due dates stated.

For the remaining weeks, children should choose from the additional tasks (not shaded) and complete one per week in the homework book. If it is a practical task, it would be lovely to see photos of your child doing it and stuck into their Homework book if this is possible.

The homework grid will be stuck into the inside cover of the homework book. Could parents please sign and date each box on completion of any given piece of homework. Homework books will be collected in on the due dates.

**Reading:**

Reading is a life skill and we would like to encourage a real enjoyment and love of reading as well as increased fluency and understanding. We will therefore be reading regularly in class providing children with access to a wide range of texts. It is also really important that children continue to read at home on a regular basis. This will ultimately support their enjoyment and will have a beneficial impact on both their reading attainment and their writing.

**Spellings**

Spellings will be sent home on a **Monday and tested the following Monday.** Each child has a spelling practice book to take home. The children should try to practise the spellings little and often and the sheet provided supports this.

Each child should use the ***Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check*** strategy which the children have been shown in class. They will also be encouraged to ensure they understand each word in the list. Children will be asked to explore other strategies using colour and the ideas sheets from the front of their Spelling Practise book and choose some spellings to put into sentences to improve their vocabulary. Spelling practice books should be accessible throughout the week and be **handed in each Monday morning** please.

**Times Tables**

Children need to learn all times tables (up to and including 12 x 12) by heart. We practise times tables each week in school, however, in order for these to ‘stick’ it is very important that practise is continued regularly at home. Practise sessions do not need to be long or formal, a couple of minutes here and there whilst in the car etc… is all it takes and if done regularly this really pays off in helping your child to achieve this learning.

Each week we will have a different times table focus. Maths Basic skills, including times tables, will be on a Thursday and children will be encouraged to recall answers more fluently each week.

**Mathletics**

Each child has a Mathletics Password and we ask that children access Mathletics regularly to support work done in class. Mathletics is on the Homework Grid as an ongoing task.

**Home School Record**

The Home/School Record is a very important book and the children should have access to this all the time. This is particularly important for the Year 6 children as this year forms a transition between their Primary and Secondary education.

Your child will be encouraged to use it to help them to organise themselves appropriately. Spellings and Homework tasks not detailed on the Homework grid will be put into this book. Please feel free to write in this book to communicate with us if you need to on the relevant day. I have asked the children if there is a message from you in the book, that they bring us the Home School book so that we can read the relevant comment. Please could I ask that you check the Home School book regularly and sign it at the end of each week.

**MFL**

MFL (French) will continue to take place on Thursdays. We are very pleased to be able to welcome Mrs Gale back again this year and she will be teaching Year 6. This is a super opportunity for the Year 6 children to experience working with a native speaker and a great transition for secondary. Mrs Adams will continue to teach Year 5.

 **PE**

Our PE days are **Tuesday and Thursday**. Children should keep their P.E. kit in school at all times, just in case we have extra P.E. sessions or we have to change our day. Please ensure that your child’s kit is clearly labelled and that they have shoes and clothing suitable for indoor and outdoor use. If your child has ear-rings, they must bring surgical tape to cover them during PE or be prepared to remove them for the duration of the session.

**Forest Schools**

We will be continuing out Forest Schools programme this term. Confirmation of the dates for Year 5 and 6 will be sent home separately.

In order to participate in Forest Schools, children will need suitable footwear (eg: wellies or walking boots), waterproof top and trousers, jogging bottoms and a long-sleeved top. Clothes are likely to get a bit muddy during these sessions, so please do not send their best clothing.

We look forward to a full and varied term.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Adams and Mrs Craig