

# Otterbourne Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Martin Geraghty



*With God's love,  
all are encouraged to thrive.*

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 5/6 and life on the savannah with our lovely Giraffe, Gazelle and Zebra classes.

The Year 5/6 teaching team consists of:

**Giraffes:** Mrs Holland

Thursday pm: Mrs Simmons

**Zebbras:** Mrs Simpson

**Gazelles:** Mr O'Dowd

The children will be supported by Mrs Hearn, Mrs Sprack, Mrs Alexander and Mrs Rees who are all LSAs working in Y5/6.

On a Wednesday afternoon, the children will be taught by our subject specialist PPA cover teachers on a rotation each term.

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Giraffes - Forest School with Mrs Morgan	Giraffes - Science with Mrs Simmons	Giraffes - Computing with Mr Bagge
Zebra - Computing with Mr Bagge	Zebra - Forest School with Mrs Morgan	Zebra - Science with Mrs Simmons
Gazelles - Science with Mrs Simmons	Gazelles - Computing with Mr Bagge	Gazelles - Forest School with Mrs Morgan

Children will also be taught computing and science by their class teachers at other points in the year.

## Y5/6 Meet the Teacher and Parent Information Session

We would like to invite all Y5/6 parents to meet their class teacher on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

We are also offering a parent information session on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 3:45pm. This information session will contain information that will be useful to both Y5 and Y6 parents including how we deliver the curriculum and online safety. We hope to see as many of you as possible there.

### Rolling Rivers

Our first topic is geography focused and we will be exploring the question - is the River Itchen unique? We are launching this topic next week with some exciting outdoor learning. To establish existing knowledge on rivers, the children will be set a team challenge of creating a miniature river in the woodlands using natural materials on top of a plastic sheet. If anyone has a tarpaulin or plastic sheet they are able to donate towards this activity, please let us know.

We are very excited to be working with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife trust this term as they launch their 'Save our Chalk Streams' campaign. They will support us with our geography fieldwork at St Cross and help us to understand why chalk streams are such a precious habitat.

### Maths

Children will be taught in their year groups for maths between 11 and 12 each day. There will be two Year 6 maths groups which will be taught by Mr O'Dowd and Mrs Holland, and three Year 5 maths groups which will be taught by Mrs Simpson, Mrs Cook and Mrs Welch. These groups are ability based allowing the children to access a highly differentiated maths curriculum which is suitable for their level of learning.

### Online Reading Diary Trial

In Year 5/6, we are trialling online reading diaries as an alternative to the paper diaries the children have had throughout school so far. Our 4 week trial with Boom Reader will last throughout September. Further information about this will be sent home shortly and we will be keen to receive your feedback on this new approach.

### Class Reader

This half-term we are reading Floodland by Marcus Sedgwick. A separate letter has been sent out about the opportunity to purchase a copy of this text for your child to use in class. You can pay for this using your Scopy account.

### Homework

All homework will be set on a Monday and should be returned on the following Monday.

In Year 5/6, the homework expectations are as follows:

Reading - All children	This should be daily or at least 5 times a week. Please ensure your child completes their online reading log after each entry.
English - Year 6 only	Your child will be given a CGP SPAG book and will be asked to complete one activity a week which should take approximately 20 minutes. This will be set on a Wednesday and should be returned to school for whole class feedback on a Monday.
Maths	Your child will be given a CGP Maths book and will be asked to complete one activity a week which should take approximately 20 minutes.
Spellings	Spellings will be set each week on Spelling Shed. Your child should log on and aim to practise these for about 20 minutes spread over the week. Spellings are set on a Monday and tested on a Friday. New spellings will be uploaded on a Friday so that you can look at them over the weekend.
Times Tables	Aim to spend at least 10 minutes each week learning or refreshing your times tables. You can use Times Table Rockstars to support with this.

Occasionally, we will set project homework. This homework may be completed over a few weeks and children will get the chance to share it in school with their class. We are always really impressed with the imagination and creativity which goes into these projects.

### PE Kits

The children in Year 5/6 will be taking part in PE at least once a week with their teacher. Children are expected to have their PE kits in their lockers **at all times** in the event of timetable changes. In accordance with the updated PE Kit policy, children are allowed to wear a PLAIN coloured T-shirt in the same colour as their house OR a plain white T shirt. Please wear black or green shorts and sensible PE trainers for running around in. In the event of forgotten PE kit, children will be expected to take part in PE in the form of an observer, and will complete a PE observation form focussing on the skills taught in the lesson.

### Wild Worship

In Year 5/6, as an alternative to our traditional church service, each class will lead a Wild Worship Service during the year. It is a wonderful opportunity for children to plan and lead their own acts of worship with less direction from the class teacher and it has received very positive feedback from EY/ KS1 teachers and children. Each class has a separate day (one class each term). There will be five services on each of these days (one to each of our EY/ KS1 classes) and you will be invited to attend your child's service:

Gazelles - 9th October 2023

Giraffes - 18th March 2024

Zebras - 24th June 2024

### Fairthorne Manor 25th to 29th September

Year 6 will be going to Fairthorne Manor at the end of September for their residential. Year 5 will be taught in school this week. Daily photographs will be uploaded onto the Y5/6 webpage which we will be sharing with the Y5 children in school each day so that they can see what their friends are up to and what they can look forward to next year.

**Please ensure all Medical and Permission forms are returned by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September.**

### Walking Home and Mobile Phones

In readiness for secondary school, some Y6 children begin to walk home or walk to a meeting point on their own or with friends. If your child is walking home alone, please can you let the office or your child's teacher know. If you wish your child to have a mobile phone for walking home, please remind them that these must not be used at all within our school grounds. When your child enters school, these are collected and stored in the school office for safe keeping during the day and will get handed out at the end of the school day.

### Drink Bottles

Please ensure your child has a drink bottle filled with water in school every day and that this is named.

### Class Webpages

These will be updated on a weekly basis. Please have a look regularly and keep in touch with what we are up to.

### Parent Helpers

We are always keen to involve parents in classroom life. If you are interested in volunteering to hear readers, run a club or for special events, please get in touch.

### Teacher Contact

We are available to talk to on the playground at 3:30pm. Please do let us know if you have any concerns or questions.

### Dates for your diary:

12th September - Y5/6 Meet the teacher - 3.30pm  
19th September - Y5/6 Information session 3:45-4:15 in the hall.  
25th-29th September - Fairthorne Residential  
10th and 12th October - Parents' Evenings  
10th October Y6 St. Cross Rivers Fieldwork  
11th October Y5 St. Cross Rivers Fieldwork  
14th November Y5 Charmouth Fossils Trip  
16th November Y6 Charmouth Fossils Trip

Kind regards

Clare Holland, Zoe Simpson and Campbell O'Dowd

