

# Otterbourne Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Martin Geraghty



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 5/6 and life in the skies with our lovely Buzzards, Kestrels and Red Kites classes!

The Year 5/6 teaching team consists of:

**Red Kite Class:** Mrs Holland

**Buzzard Class:** Mrs Simpson

**Kestrel Class:** Mr O'Dowd

On a Tuesday afternoon, the children will be taught by Mrs Welch, Mrs Hearn and Mrs Redford.

Throughout the week in Year 5/6, the children will also be supported by our wonderful Learning Support Assistants: Mr Kwiatek, Mrs Millard, Miss L Whitwham, Miss Z Whitwham and Mrs Taylor.

## Year 5/6 Meet the Teacher and Parent Information Session

We would like to invite all Year 5/6 parents for a parent information session at 3:45pm on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September in Red Kite Class.**

After this session, you will be able to visit your child's classroom and meet their teacher. This information session will contain information that will be useful to both Year 5 and Year 6 parents including how we deliver the curriculum, online safety and how to access our new online homework system - IXL. We hope to see as many of you there as possible there.

## Rolling Rivers

In our first geography unit we will be exploring the question, "Is the River Itchen unique?" We have launched this unit this week with some exciting outdoor learning creating a miniature river in the woodland using natural materials on top of a plastic sheet to establish our existing knowledge.

We are very excited to be working with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust this term on their 'Save our Chalk Streams' campaign which will link into our English work where we will create persuasive speeches. They will also support us with our geography fieldwork at Compton Lock and help us to understand why chalk streams are such a precious habitat.

## Online Reading Diary

In Year 5/6, we use online reading diaries as an alternative to the paper diaries the children have had throughout school so far. Information on this has been sent home with your children, along with their passwords and logins. The expectation for reading diaries remains that children are recording at least 5 entries a week which will be checked in school on a Monday.

### Class Reader

This term we are reading Sky Hawk by Gill Lewis. This is an intense and touching story of how protecting a rare bird forges a deep and special friendship between two children and, again, builds on our curriculum pillar of Sustainability and Change.

### 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 encourage them to record and respond to their personal reading in their Book of Books Reading Journal (see separate letter)
English - Year 6 only	Your child will be set weekly spelling, punctuation and grammar homework on IXL. This will commence on Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September.
Maths Year 5 and Year 6	Your child will be set weekly maths homework on IXL. This will commence on Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September.
Spellings – all children	Spellings will be sent each week via email on a Thursday morning. Your child should aim to practise these for about 20 minutes spread over the week. Spellings are set on a Thursday and tested on a Wednesday.
Times Tables – all children	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. Times table knowledge can be forgotten unless regularly retrieved so continuous practice, even after your child has learnt them, is important.

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 dark shorts and sensible PE trainers for running around in.

### Fairthorne Manor 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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. Alternatively, please email the school office with less urgent matters.

## Wild Worship

In Year 5/6, as an alternative to our traditional church service, each class will lead a Wild Worship Service in our school meadow. 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 teachers and children in the younger years who attend these. This year these will all take place in the summer term. Each class will have a different day and there will be multiple services on each of these days, as each group delivers their worship to a different Early Years or Key Stage 1 class, and you will be invited to attend your child's service. Dates will follow later in the year.

## Walking Home and Mobile Phones

In readiness for secondary school, some Year 6 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 and are expected to be turned off before the children get to the gate. When your child enters school, these are collected and stored for safe keeping during the day and will get handed out at the end of the school day.

## Whats App

As children begin to use phones, there is a temptation to start using a range of apps that have a higher age rating. The minimum age for this WhatsApp, and many others is 13 years old. We are very aware of the challenges children can face as they enter the online world and ask you to please monitor your child's phone use carefully. If you are considering a new phone for your child and would like to discuss their safe use, please contact us as we have parents who are happy to talk about the decisions they have taken at home. Please be aware that we work closely with other schools regarding mobile phone use, and we reserve the right to change our policy throughout the year.

## Drink Bottles

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

## 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 let the office know.

## Other Diary dates:

6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October - Parent Consultation Evenings

7<sup>th</sup> October – Y6 Rivers Trip

8<sup>th</sup> October – Y5 Rivers Trip

11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6 Bikeability

11<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6 Remembrance Service at the Memorial– 10:45am

Kind regards

Mrs Holland, Mr O'Dowd, Mrs Simpson

