Otterbourne Church of England Primary School

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OTTERBOURNE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
With God's love, all are encouraged to thrive.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 5-6 and life in the skies with our lovely new Buzzard, Kestrel and Red Kite Classes!

The Year 5/6 teaching team consists of:
Buzzard Class: Mrs Simpson
Kestrel Class: Mr O'Dowd
Red Kite Class: Mrs Holland

Tuesday pm (PPA Cover): Mrs Hearn, Mrs Redford and Mr Marshall.

The children will be supported by Mrs Hearn, Miss L Whitwham, Miss Z Whitwham and Miss Taylor who are all LSAs working across the year group.

Violent Earth
We have already had a fantastic VR workshop in school during our first week back, kicking off our exciting new geography unit where we will explore volcanoes and earthquakes. We are really looking forward to studying this with the children and unpicking our key question, 'Which poses a greater threat – volcanoes or earthquakes?'

Maths
There is one Year 5 maths class which will be taught by Mrs Simpson, a Year 6 maths class which will be taught by Mrs Holland and one mixed group of Year 5 and 6 which will be taught by Mr O'Dowd. This is a tried and tested approach here in the school and we look forward to seeing all of your children making great progress this year.

Class Reader
This term we are reading The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. Children are welcome to bring their own copy into school if they would like to.

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

Ofsted Read our report
School Games Platinum 2023/24 - 2024/25
The Diana Award
Water Smart Schools Gold
Hampshire County Council

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 commenced on Monday 8th September.
Maths Year 5 and Year 6	Your child will be set weekly maths homework on IXL. This will commence on Monday 8th 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 21st-25th 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, 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 reach the gate. When your child enters school, these are collected and stored for safe keeping and get handed out at the end of the school day. Please note that Smart Watches are not permitted in school.

WhatsApp
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 and not allow your child to create or join class or year group WhatsApp groups. 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.

Kind regards

Mrs Holland, Mr O'Dowd, Mrs Simpson

