



Dear Parent (s)/Carer (s),

Welcome back to school life after the well-deserved Christmas break. Thank you for Christmas messages and gifts, they were all greatly appreciated. I look forward to a busy and productive term with plenty of opportunities for children to set and meet their own challenges.



Year 5 Expectations

As the children have made the move into upper Key Stage 2, there is an increase in the expectations and responsibilities in Year 5. This is an important year for them to develop in confidence; both in the curriculum and wider school life to enable them to move forward in their time at All Souls' and beyond. I am confident that this class is capable of rising to the challenges set out for them.

At the top end of the school, we expect Year 5 children to begin to set an example of behaviour, attitude and appearance for those in younger year groups. As such, we expect children to arrive at school on time, in full school uniform and prepared for the day ahead. It should increasingly become the responsibility of the children to organise themselves for and during school so, if needed, take a step back and allow them to learn organisational strategies that will be beneficial throughout their life. There may be mistakes at first, but these are valuable opportunities from which they can learn to prepare more carefully. The children have applied for a number of roles within the class and those awarded positions are expected to complete these tasks more or less independently, asking for advice or help when required.

The Year 5 curriculum is a full one and so it is very important we make the most use of our time in the classroom as possible. The children will be expected to work hard and concentrate fully during lessons to achieve their best potential. There will not be time during lessons for children to finish off work that was

not completed during a lesson, so there may be times when they will be expected to work during a lunch time to complete if they have not kept up a reasonable pace. We ask that all children take pride in their work, complete each piece to the best of their ability and organise it clearly, in accordance with the expectations of the school's policy for presentation. When work falls below this standard, children will be asked to repeat the work in their own time.

Spring Term Curriculum

English – As a school, we are focusing on exposing our children to a wide variety of text types and supporting them with the skills needed to write their own versions of these independently. This term the text types we will be focusing on are:

- Biographies
- Narratives
- Magazine articles and reports
- Poetry

Maths – We have started this term by working on fundamental mathematical skills of multiplication and division using formal written methods. In the following weeks of the term Year 5 will move on to understanding fractions, decimal numbers and their linked relationship.

RE – After spending some time reflecting on the messages of the Christmas season, Year 5 will be studying how the apostles went out into the world and spread their message. We will also be looking into Islam as another major world religion and studying the key elements of Islam as a religion. As it is the Year of the Word we will be embracing scriptures, looking more closely at them, using them in prayer and thinking about how they relate to us today.

PE – This term, P.E. days are Tuesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays children will be working on team co-ordination in dodgeball and on Fridays children will be building creativity, routine and pattern through gymnastics with Mr Rolison. Please ensure children have a full labelled P.E. kit in school through the week.



arise and how they can be resolved when this occurs.

History – After the half term, Year 5 will begin studying the history of Coventry and look into how the city came to be as they experience it today. Through map work, census data and field studies we aim to build up an understanding of how Coventry was formed and answer our own research questions through the term.



Art – On Monday afternoons Year 5 have started a unit of work on an artist from my native Walthamstow; William Morris. After researching his life, career and artwork for inspiration we will become immersed in a range of printing techniques. Our end goal is to produce our own nature-inspired wallpaper designs to be replicated again and again through printing.

After the half term, we will be getting up close and personal when taking macro photographs. By focusing the lens on a subject at an extremely close distance, we can achieve a unique photo that rarely is captured by the human eye.

Design and Technology – once our work on photography is complete, the children will need a way to display their artwork and so creating a personal photo frame is an ideal project for the end of the term. We will deconstruct existing frames, test out materials and plan out our designs in order to showcase each person's macro photography to best effect.

Science – In Science lessons this term we are focusing on the properties of materials and carrying out investigations to determine which materials are suitable for particular tasks.

Homework

This year, homework tasks consist of spelling, times tables challenges and reading. Each half term a new project task will be set, which the children have freedom to explore and complete in their own way. This term's project has already been sent out and the letter can be found on the Year 5 page of the website.

Spellings

Your child will receive 5 spellings each week to practise at home. They will be given these on a Friday and tested the following Friday along with 5 spellings based on a pattern or rule we have been learning during lessons. We recommend children use the "Look, Cover, Write, Check" method that they have been shown at school to help them to make best progress in their spelling tests. Those children who work hard and succeed in their tests will work their way towards earning a Spelling Superstar in the term.

Times Tables

It is outlined in the National Curriculum that children should be able to accurately and rapidly recall all their times tables (up to 12xtables) by the time they leave Year 4. It is therefore important that any gaps in their knowledge are plugged early in Year 5 to enable children to access and succeed in the Year 5 Maths curriculum. Children should aim to practise their times tables regularly (daily where possible) at home. I will provide materials to help with this over the year but the old fashioned methods of chanting and quick-fire questions and answers are very often the most effective and so I would encourage you to do this with your child as often as possible. Times table sheets are handed out on a Friday and remain available through the week. If children complete their work before a Friday, they may hand it in earlier though if not completed by a Friday they will be asked to work on this practice during their own time at Homework Club. Children should complete as many times tables as they can during the 4 minute challenge time, but can use a different coloured pen or pencil to complete the missed questions as extra practice.

Reading

Your child should aim to read at home on a (almost) daily basis. The expectation for Year 5 is that they read for a minimum of 15 minutes 5 times a week and at least one of these with an adult at home. They have been provided with a reading record which should be completed daily, detailing what they are reading and

with whom. In their reading record, there is a page that details a wide variety of text types that we ask children to aim to read from. Once they have read a particular style of text they can detail and date this and colour the appropriate section.

This year they will also be given a reading activity book to work on challenges outlined in the reading record. In each term, we ask they complete at least 5 challenges in this book, detailed in a bingo style table in their reading record. Once they have completed an activity in this book, it can be brought in to class to be marked and show their understanding of the text that they have complete.

Now that your child is in upper KS2, we trust them to fill in their own record and encourage this to help them to become more independent. I ask for your support in encouraging and monitoring your child's reading and that you sign their record each week to confirm that what is recorded is a true record (even if it says that they have not read anything!). Please ensure that this reading record is brought into school each Monday so that it can be checked.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 21 st January	Whole School Mass (9.15am)
Thursday 13 th February	Valentine Disco
Friday 14 th February	Year 5 St Valentine's day assembly
Monday 17 th February	Parachute Projects due in for egg drop challenge
24 th -28 th February	Half-term holiday
Monday 2 nd - Wednesday 4 th March	Alton Castle Residential
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 17 th March	St. Patrick's Day Coffee Morning
Friday 20 th March	Y5 & 6 Mothers' Day Lunch
Thursday 9 th April	Last day of term

If there are any questions regarding anything in this letter (or anything not addressed), please do come to organise a meeting through the school office or find me at the outside door at the end of the day when dismissing children.

Thank you for reading. During this term we are faced with increased responsibilities both around the school in leading St. Patrick's day celebrations and outside of it during our retreat to Alton Castle. I am confident your children will rise to the occasion and continue to show the hard work and pleasure for learning demonstrated so far this year.

Many thanks,

Mr Rolison

Year 5 class teacher

Ms McGinn

Year 5 teaching assistant