



## Autumn Year 5 and 6 Team Letter

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back! It has been such a great start to the school year and we think that this year, more than ever, we are delighted to welcome the children back to school. We hope you had a fantastic summer holidays and managed to do plenty of exciting things that were restricted during lockdown. It has been lovely to return to learning at school again. We have an exciting and jam packed year ahead of us in Years 5 & 6!

This letter will give you a brief overview of some of the events and changes happening this term, as well as give you a reminder about some of our school routines (which may now be different!)

### **Start of the Day**

Thank you so much for adapting to our free flow entry time of 8:40-9:10am. The Year 5 and Year 6 children are all coming in really well and are now very familiar with their respective routes into school. Please be aware that the children have morning learning to be complete as soon as they have settled into the classroom.

### **PE Kit**

Children are now expected to **come to school** in full PE kit on their PE days. This has been a great change as now we have more time for doing PE and spend less of our lesson getting changed! Thank you for your efforts with this- very few children have forgotten their kits so far!

Please make sure to dress appropriately for the weather, wearing joggers and a jumper where needed. A light waterproof coat may also be a good idea on some days, as we will be keen to get outside.

PE Days:

DSM- Monday  
HAE- Tuesday  
RGA- Wednesday  
ABA- Thursday

### **Forest School**

Please come to school in your school uniform and bring in your wellies, warm clothes and waterproofs! These will be stored in a trolley and on pegs until they are needed in the day.

HAE- Wednesday AM  
DSM- Wednesday PM

### **Topic**

This term our topic is driven by the enquiry question, 'What happened here?'

This is a history based topic in which the children will learn about the Mayan civilisation who lived in Central America from around AD 250 – 900. The topic will develop the children's historical detective skills. This will involve:

- *developing an understanding of how to assess the reliability of a source of historical evidence.*
- *developing an understanding of the difference between primary and secondary sources of evidence and how they can piece together the past.*
- *being able to give reasons why changes have occurred, backed up with evidence.*
- describe similarities and differences between people, events and objects.

Having developed these skills the children will then apply them to a civilisation that was around at the same time – the Anglo Saxons.

As part of our topic, we are also hoping to invite a Mayan storyteller into school for a Mayan themed day. This will involve looking at replica artefacts from the Mayan times and gaining more understanding of how the civilisation was rediscovered by intrepid explorers. In previous years, this has cost around £5.00 per child. We are hoping it will be similarly priced this year and will keep you updated with the details when they have been confirmed.

### **Home Learning**

Homework will look quite different this year as we move from paper homework to online learning. We are really excited about our new virtual learning environment which is currently being set up.

In Computing lessons at school, the children will learn all about how to use Google Classroom and will understand how to access tasks that will be set on there. We hope to have this set up for after half term and will be using it in some school lessons as well as for home learning. If you do not have a device or internet, please let your class teacher know and we will be able to give out paper versions too.

In the meantime, there are lots of things you can be doing to help your child with their learning:

**Reading-** It is expected that even in KS2, children read **every day**. Even if your child is an independent free reader, it is very important that they have the opportunity to read to somebody else, as it develops their accuracy and confidence in reading aloud. It is also an excellent chance to question them on what they have read- a key skill for reading!

**Maths-** It is really important that children in Years 5 & 6 have a fluent grasp of number facts.

The key facts to try and remember are:

**Number bonds** to 10, 100 and 1000, as well as decimal number bonds to 1.

(two numbers that add to make 10, e.g. 2+8 / 100, e.g. 30+70 / 1000, e.g. 100+ 900 / 1, e.g. 0.4+0.6)

**Times tables** - children in Year 5 and 6 should be confident in recalling their times tables up to 12 x12, as well as the related division facts. Short regular practise is the key to becoming fluent with these facts. Hit the Button is a great online game where you can race against a 1 minute timer with these number facts.

**Spelling-** after such a long break, some children have become rusty with key spellings. Your child's class teacher will provide them with a list of the key spellings that the children are learning in school. It would make a huge difference if you could support them practise the key spelling rules.

### **Meet the Teacher**

Unfortunately, we are unable to give face to face meetings this term due to COVID-19 restrictions. Instead of these meetings, you will receive a short written report on 15th October from your child's class teacher. There will also be the opportunity to arrange an optional virtual meeting or phone call should you wish to discuss this report further.

### **Christmas Performance**

Christmas has not been cancelled at Sticklepath!

Our new plans for the festive season will hopefully bring some festive cheer to children and adults alike.

Nursery and reception will still be performing the traditional nativity which will be filmed and shared with parents. The rest of the school will be 'Sleighing it' with a Mrs Oke spectacular lip syncing Christmas carol competition, complete with costumes and props! This will be live streamed between classrooms and shared with you all for your Christmas entertainment. More details to follow!

Thank you for your patience and flexibility with the new changes at school. The children have all settled in so well in the past few weeks and they seem to really enjoy getting back to their learning. We are reminding them of how to continue to develop their growth mindsets through embracing challenge, persevering and learning from their mistakes. These key messages help our Sticklepath learners to become the best they can be!

We will keep in contact and hope to meet you all soon!

Year 5 / 6 Team

Mr Smallwood, Miss Baker, Mrs Gaunt, Miss Elsom and Mrs Oke