



ST PAUL'S C of E COMBINED SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 5 - Spring Term

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a lovely, restful Christmas break, and are ready and looking forward to the exciting term ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for the lovely cards and gifts. You have been incredibly generous, and I really appreciate it!

I am mindful that the transition back into school after the holidays can cause apprehension and anxiety for some children but, as always, the children's wellbeing is top priority for staff. Please continue to encourage children to share any concerns or worries they may be having with adults in school so we can best support them.

A couple of quick reminders - Equipment and Uniform

Please encourage your child to have the correct equipment in school each day (a reading book, pencil and a glue stick!). Our PE lessons will now take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, so, on these days, the children should arrive at school in their PE kit.

Please ensure that the children are coming to school in the correct school uniform. This includes:

- Hair of shoulder length or longer should be tied back with a blue or dark hairband or Alice band. Trampolines, designs and unnatural colours are not acceptable.
- No earrings are allowed.
- No make-up or nail varnish should be worn.
- Shoes should be flat black school shoes with laces, strap or buckle. Trainers are only to be worn on PE days.

The Curriculum

The start of a new term also means the start of some new and exciting curriculum topics.

In Maths we will be focusing on multiplication and division, which will provide a strong foundation for further work on fractions later in the term. Whilst all strands of Maths are taught through the curriculum aims of fluency, problem solving and reasoning, this term, there will be a particular focus on showing working out and explaining the reasoning behind our answers.

This half term, in English, we will be using the book *Riddle of the Runes* as a stimulus for writing. As well as consolidating our knowledge of the text types already covered in Year 5, we will be particularly focusing on Non-Chronological Reports, Diary Entries and Mystery Narratives. This links to our new History topic of Anglo-Saxons and Vikings where the children will be learning about where they came from, how people lived during this historical period, and why this time was so significant.

In Geography, we will be learning about Scandinavia. Throughout the unit, the children will have the opportunity to develop their map and atlas skills, as well as considering the similarities and differences between Scandinavia and the UK.

In Art, the children will develop skills in creating interesting portrait drawings using words, experimenting with materials and techniques, and constructing self-portraits that represent aspects of themselves.

The children will learn about and investigate materials and their properties in Science and will be exploring, 'How far does the mosque contribute to the Muslim concept of Ummah?'

in RE. In Computing this term, the children will be developing their programming skills and in French, we will be focussing on sport.

Our focus in PE will be Dance and Gymnastics. Throughout these units, the children will develop their sequences of movement, artistry and balance. Finally, in PSHE, we will focus on developing understanding of dreams and goals.

Home Learning

As before, Home Learning will continue to be set on Teams each week. Please note, spellings will now be set and tested on Mondays. The routines and expectations are outlined below. Children are encouraged to continue to use Times Tables Rock Stars to support their learning, as well as....

Subject and Detail	Day Given	Day Returned
Reading Regular reading and discussion of a text with an adult. This should be logged on BoomReader, a minimum of 15 minutes, 4 times per week.	Monday	Monday
Spellings – Sent on Teams 6 words linked to spelling pattern taught – daily practice	Monday	Monday
Spelling sentences/Spelling activity – Set on Teams Spelling sentences or a spelling activity to support the learning of spelling words each week.	Monday	Monday
Home Learning Choice – Set on Teams Select a Home Learning Choice activity from the grid and complete to the best of your ability. This should take approx. 45 minutes.	Friday	Thursday am

Home learning is a very important part of our children's learning journey as it enhances their learning whilst in school and instils study skills in preparation for the next stage of their schooling. It is also a great way for families and carers to be involved in their child's education, giving a chance to talk about their learning.

Please encourage your child to complete their home learning and ensure this is uploaded on time. For children who do not complete home learning on a regular basis, we will invite parents/carers in to discuss reasons why and to identify if support is required to complete the home learning. If there is a reason why a child cannot complete a particular piece of home learning, perhaps due to illness or something unexpected arising at home, then please let the class teacher know.

The Spring Term is very exciting, with lots of new topics to learn about, and opportunities for the children to enjoy their learning.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please do come and let me know.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Walker
Firecrests (Year 5) Class Teacher