



September 2018

Dear Parents,

TO PARENTS OF Year 5 – Information 2018-2019

My name is Tzipora Drucker and I am so excited to be your child's secular teacher for this year. We've had a lovely first week getting to know each other while your children have quickly settled into the upper school routine and expectations.

I am looking forward to working with you, getting to know your child more and helping them to reach their full potential. To this end, good communication between teacher and parent/carer is paramount - it ensures that your child and you always feel supported. Over the next few weeks please contact me tzipora.drucker@nrps.co.uk with your child's full name and any information you may think valuable that will help me to help them and you.

Although email is probably the easiest way to contact me, it is no substitute for face-to-face contact where the circumstances demand. If you need to speak with me in person, please do contact me to arrange a meeting.

The following is to explain some of what will be happening this year:

Secular Teacher –Morah Tzipora

Kodesh Teacher – Reb Simcha

Ivrit Teacher – MorahGalit

Attendance

School starts at 8.40a.m. Late arrivals do cause disruption to the whole class and the lesson taking place. If your child is late, he/she must pick up a late note from the office. The school day finishes at 4.00pm. It is also important that children are collected on time from the playground. Children are not allowed to wait at the top of the slope. Please note that school finishes earlier on Fridays. Permission for any pre-organised absences from school, must be sort from Mr Wolfson. Please note that football is not allowed at drop off or pick up.

Uniform

Please ensure all uniform is clearly marked with your child's name, including coats, P.E. kit, trainers and plimsolls. P.E. kit must be navy jogger bottoms or navy skirt and yellow polo shirt. Please make sure that your child has their PE KIT every Thursday.

Snacks

Fruit, vegetables and crackers at break; crisps/pretzels on Rosh Chodesh

NO PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS please – we have children and staff with allergies in the school.

Class Expectations

We have discussed class rules. Pupils in Year 5 will have the opportunity to work independently and co-operatively; they are always encouraged to do their best. Hard work and effort are rewarded with positive praise, Dojos, house points & Head Teacher's Award. The children have been told that it is okay to make mistakes – this is a part of learning.

Curriculum:

Literacy – every day

Reading – the children will have regular opportunities to read independently or out loud to the class which encourages them to read with fluency and clarity. As well as reading their own individual choice of book, the children will engage in shared reading, group reading and listening to class stories, which will cover a range of genres. Please allow your child the opportunity to read out aloud to you at home, as even in Year 5, they will appreciate this chance. Some children have already said that they do visit a local library to borrow books. It would be fabulous if every child had their own library ticket for a local library and were able to borrow books to support their topic work as well as find fiction books they can enjoy.

Comprehension – each week we complete a comprehension activity, either as a class, in pairs or individually. We aim to answer questions on the text, including details, but also by this stage using inference and deduction. We will read various texts, including modern and classic fiction and poetry, play scripts, debates, fables, diaries, letters, newspaper articles etc.

Creative Writing

We will be producing writing in the various genres mentioned for comprehension. We will also be writing in response to our class novel, which this term will be 'The White Giraffe' by Lauren St John.

Grammar

Each week we will focus on different areas of grammar, encouraging the children to incorporate these into their own writing. Topics covered include verb tenses, direct and reported speech, relative clauses, determiners, metaphors and similes. There has been a much greater Government emphasis on grammar in recent years. The use of correct punctuation is constantly reinforced – including full stops, commas, question marks, exclamation marks and speech marks, ellipses and brackets.

Spelling

Spelling words are given out every Friday and the test takes place the following Friday. Each week we will also incorporate words connected to our History/Geography or Science topic.

Handwriting

Some of the children in Year Five are already using cursive script at all times. They will be encouraged to maintain a high standard of presentation in all their work, using a handwriting pen for writing at a later stage in Year Five. Pencil will still be used for all maths activities and scientific diagrams. Please make sure these guidelines are adhered to when homework is completed. 'Biro', fountain pens and 'frixion' pens are not to be used for general writing.



Numeracy – every day

The children will continue to learn how to calculate fluently with all four number operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), developing greater confidence with mental maths methods.

We will complete ‘basic maths skills’ each week and the children will be encouraged to try and beat their own individual achievement from the previous week.

In addition, Year Five will cover topics in shape and space, including angles, degrees, symmetry, length, mass and capacity. We will use a wide range of mathematical language, diagrams and charts. Please continue to help your child learn their times tables, so that they will feel confident with them when we incorporate them into our numeracy work. These will be practised regularly through our speed times tables work.

More challenging work will be provided for those children ready to progress as well as differentiated work to suit the needs of all the children.

Children are always encouraged to check their answers; they will also be asked to explain their method and reasoning to the class, so that strategies can be shared. Children are encouraged to use a strategy that they find easiest to understand. We will finish each week with a lesson on ‘problem solving’ which will give every child the opportunity to apply skills learned that week.

Science (once a week)

Our first science topic is ‘Earth and Space’. I hope the children will enjoy several practical activities.

We will also investigate the topics of Forces, Life Cycles, as well as Properties and changes of materials.

Humanities – History/Geography (once a week)

History topics will include the Victorians and Ancient Greeks, focusing on the legacy of the Greek empire. In the second part of this term, we will look at evacuation during World War Two. If you have a family member or friend who would be willing to come in and share their experiences with the children, please contact me.

In Geography our curriculum will include human and physical features of the UK and investigating coasts. This term we will start by looking at ‘Zones’ which includes climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes and the water cycle.

The children will also enjoy Music, Art and PE and of course all their Kodesh lessons - a broad and balanced curriculum.

Outings

Some trips have already been booked; I will book more after the Chagim. More details to follow nearer the time.



Homework (to commence after Succot)

English: Thursday for Monday

Maths: Tuesday for Thursday

Reading: at least twice a week, including chapter from guided reading

A copy of our Year Five homework timetable will be put into your child's homework diary for reference. Homework should take 20-30 minutes (apart from research work). If it is taking a lot longer, then just write a note to explain that and they should bring in what they have done. I don't expect children to spend excessive amounts of time completing homework.

Please note, spellings are given out on a Thursday for a test the following Thursday. These will be a mixture of 'spelling rule words plus topic words'.

When research work is given, please encourage your children to re-word information found, include illustrations and generally make their research work as interesting and attractive as possible, rather than pages and pages of copy, paste and print. Generally, I will expect one page of A4 research work about any topic given. The children usually have a week to complete a piece of research.

Please check your child's homework diary regularly and sign at the weekend to confirm that all homework has been completed. If a piece of homework is not completed at all, please write a note in the diary explaining why it has not been done or email me. Parents of children who persistently do not complete their homework will be called into school for a meeting.

Don't forget that you have my email address should you need to contact me about any concerns; I will endeavour to reply within 24 hours.

I look forward to teaching your children as well as learning from them.

Tzipora Drucker

As we move towards autumn and winter, donations boxes of tissues would be most welcome.