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Head teacher: Mrs Elisabeth Gelston

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 5! I'm delighted to be working with your children and have already been extremely impressed by their hard work and positivity. We have an exciting year ahead of us and an action packed first term! Mrs Jo Harrington is our class LSA along with Ms Ria Newnham and Ms Sharon O' Mahony will be teaching the children on my release days.

The children have made an amazing start to the year with their reading and have put a great deal of effort into reading at home already. In the front of their reading diary, there is a sheet that explains our expectations for reading at home and the more often your child can read to and with an adult the better. The conversation about what they have read is vital in helping them develop their understanding and comprehension skills as well as fostering a lifelong love of reading. Children also love to be read to and our 'class reader' this term is *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo, which links in with our topic about Invaders and the Anglo Saxons. Much of our English work will be based around this theme, with links to our history learning too.

It is essential that as mathematicians, your children are able to confidently calculate using mental maths strategies and become fluent in number facts, particularly their times tables. They need to be able to recall facts quickly and apply them to a range of problems and mathematical questions and situations as well as develop strategies to work out unknown facts. It is therefore essential that they become fluent in their multiplication tables and this will be a key focus this term. We will also focus on the areas of place value, addition and subtraction, where we will be building on their current understanding and deepening it further. To kick start our learning in maths the whole school will be taking part in a maths week linking mathematical learning and having a growth mindset, which as you know, has been a focus area for our school for the last couple of years. Hopefully, the children will come home and tell you all about their learning!

Our science topic this term is *Earth and Space* and I have asked the children to look out for any space related news items in newspapers or on the television, which they can bring information about into school. We will be learning about the size of the planets, their distance from the sun and from Earth and trying to make sense of just how vast these distances are! Also, we will learn about the phases of the moon, keep a moon diary, as well as learn about the Earth's orbit in relation to the moon and sun and how night and day occur through lots of experiments and investigations.

Our PE days are on a Wednesday and Friday. Please make sure your child has a **named** kit in school that is suitable for both indoor and outdoor lessons. We have netball and tag rugby this term as well as gymnastics. When our tag rugby sessions start, I will ask children to bring a kit and shoes that you do not mind getting muddy as we will be on the school field, which does become a little mucky in places! This is a brilliant sport though and the children love it!

Please could you also ensure your child has a named water bottle in school for use in the classroom and at break time as drinking water throughout the day is essential for them. In addition, the lost property pile is already enormous and full of uniform that is not named. Please check your child's uniform to make sure their name is clear and easy to read so anything they misplace can be returned to them ASAP.

Home Learning will be sent home on a Wednesday to be returned the following Monday. Tasks will be a mixture of research based activities and consolidation of learning that has been undertaken in class. If your child has any difficulties in completing it, please do not hesitate in contacting me so I can give them any support they need.

Here's to an exciting first term in Year 5!

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Collier