**Class 5 Autumn 1 Term Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Class 5! I am Miss Whittaker, and I am very pleased to have joined the staff at Woodborough Woods Foundation C of E School. I have been very excited to start the new year and meet all your lovely children. The first few days have been fantastic! I am pleased to say that Class 5 have had a very positive start to the year and have settled into school routines very quickly. It has been lovely getting to know all the children and I am very much looking forward to our year together. Already the children have demonstrated lots of enthusiasm and shown a real willingness to learn. We have a really exciting year ahead of us with lots of exciting topics to explore. The aim of this newsletter is to give you an insight into what we will be learning about this term in each curriculum area. If require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to message me on Yammer or alternatively email me at [awhittaker@woodsfoundation.notts.sch.uk](mailto:awhittaker@woodsfoundation.notts.sch.uk). I am always very happy to help. 😊

On Thursdays the children will have Mrs Chadbourne. The teaching assistants, Mrs Tuxford and Mr Robinson, will be working with our class at various times during the week.

**General information:**

Please ensure that your child brings water in a labelled drinking bottle and that they have a healthy snack for morning break and/or afternoon break. If they bring it in a snack pot, please ensure these are named. No crisps, chocolate, sweets or snacks containing nuts!

Please ensure sure all items of clothing - especially jumpers, cardigans and coats - are named.

Each Friday the children will be given a new list of ten spellings which they need to spend the week practicing ahead of their test on the following Friday. The children will also receive one piece of Maths homework each week and sometimes may have an extra bit of topic to do too.

On Tuesday afternoons, the children in Class 5 will be partaking in Forest School sessions with our outside providers – ‘Little Adventurers’. This sometimes can be a little bit muddy – especially in the Autumn term! I kindly ask that your child brings a plastic bag with a pair of old trainers, a pair of old tracksuit bottoms and an old sweater. If the weather looks wet, we will still be going out so please don’t forget a waterproof jacket too! These sessions start this week – Tuesday 13th September.

Every Wednesday afternoon we will be heading to Southwell Leisure Centre for a swimming lesson. Children should wear their school tracksuit and polo shirt to school this day to make changing easier. Please follow the guidance regarding goggles, earrings and swimwear carefully. It is advisable, as we progress further into the Autumn term, that children wear a form fleece or coat as they feel the cold more with damp hair. These lessons start this week – Wednesday 14th September.

This half term PE sessions will be on a Thursday and Friday. These will be delivered by our specialised PE coaches. Please could children with long hair bring bobbles, or preferably, have their hair tied back on these days. With earrings, if the children cannot remove them for themselves, could they kindly not wear them on PE days. If this is not possible, please could you send in tape/plasters for the children to wear over the earrings for the session.

**Our topic for Autumn 1 is ‘WWI’.**

**English:** We will be focusing our writing and comprehension work around one key text this half term: Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo – a novel set in WWI. We will be using this text as a focus for various reading and writing opportunities. Children will have the chance to write for a range of purposes and in a variety of styles. We will also have discreet grammar and punctuation lessons.

**Spellings:** Every Friday the children will be given a new list of ten spellings. These will be differentiated according to the children’s learning needs – your child will be told which group they are in. Please spend time practicing these as the children will be tested on them the following Friday. Spelling lists will be uploaded onto Yammer.

**Reading:** The children should all now have a reading book that is matched to their book band. It is expected that the children do at least three reads per week with an adult. I understand that by this age your child may be able to read independently but there is a massive benefit from reading with adults, so I encourage this as much as possible. You could ask them questions about the characters’ feelings and actions and why they are doing things; you could tell them what words and phrases mean and even ask them to predict what might happen next! These are the kind of skills which the children need for comprehension tasks and assessments. Each time you read with your child at home, please write the details on the right side of the double page spread. If staff are reading with them, this will be done on the left side. If a parent reader volunteer reads with your child in class, we'll ask them to write and sign on the right - the same side as you - so that it classes as a parent read (this will count towards the total number of reads). If they read three times a week, there will be rewards on offer for them throughout the year so watch this space! I will be checking the three reads on a Friday.

**Maths:** For Maths we will be following the White Rose Maths scheme. Key mathematical concepts covered this term include place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. Children will also be given plenty of opportunities to develop their mathematical reasoning skills.

Across the year, we will continue practicing our times tables to ensure that children know the multiplication and corresponding division facts up to 12x12 fluently. Times Table Rock Stars is a fantastic website which children can use to practice their times tables through fun games and challenges! I will ensure your child’s password is stuck on the inside the front cover of their reading diary.

**History:** We will be learning about WWI. This is a fabulous topic with a History focus where we will be exploring the causes and consequences of WW1 and learning about what it was like for those who fought on Western Front during the Great War. We will also be exploring what life in Britain was like during this time.

**Science:** In Science this half term we will be investigating light and learning about how our eyes work. This will be tremendously interesting with the opportunity for lots of scientific investigation and enquiries such as, does light travel in a straight line? If so, can we prove or disprove it?

**Art and Design:** There are lots of exciting projects planned for the upcoming weeks. We will be studying some WW1 artists and using a range of media to produce work linked to our history studies.

**Computing:** In computing we will be learning how to code. We will be using the Purple Mash app for this.

**RE:** This term Class 5’s RE theme is ‘How can following God bring freedom and justice?’ A key part of RE will be giving children the chance to reflect, pose and answer interesting and thoughtful questions. We will explore some Bible stories and consider how these can be applied to our own lives.

**PSHE:** This half term we will be considering healthy lifestyles and how to make choices that can have a positive effect on our health and well-being.

**French:** We will be learning the French words for different shops and other places we find on the high street.

I hope that this letter has been informative and gives you an overview of what we are planning to do during the autumn term. Keep an eye out for further information on the whole school newsletters but please let me know if you have any further questions and I will be more than happy to help.

Kind regards,

Miss Whittaker