



Stone

Church of England Combined School

Headteacher: Deborah Morrison B.Ed.Hons Oxon
Stone Church of England Combined School
Oxford Road, Stone, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 8PD
Tel: 01296 748 340 Fax: 01296 748 483
Website: www.stone.bucks.sch.uk
Email: office@stone.bucks.sch.uk

Building stepping stones to success



Design adapted from the children of Stone C of E School

Wednesday 13th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 5! We hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are ready for all the excitement that Year 5 has to offer. In this letter we hope to give you and your child an introduction to the next stage of their learning journey.

Hopefully, it will answer any questions you may have about the routines and learning activities that your child will be engaged in during the next academic year. However, please do come and ask us if there is anything that we have not included that you would like to know.

The Year 5 team

Mrs Stewart and Ms Lamb will be the class teachers and Miss Morris will be supporting us in class. Mrs Stewart will be in class on Monday to Wednesday and Ms Lamb will be teaching the class on Thursday and Friday.

Homework

Homework is very important this year. The children will be given regular home learning in preparation for Year 6 and secondary school. Home learning will be given out weekly, on a Friday, and is due back in on the following Wednesday morning. Your child will be given a home learning book, in which all tasks will be written. Your child needs to take responsibility for his/her learning, developing a routine and making sure that home learning is not left to the last minute. Children should be able to complete their home learning independently and it should not take them more than one and a half hours.

Every week, your child will receive spelling words and multiplication tables to learn, as well as two tasks that will be related to their work in class. The children will have a multiplication test every Friday. There will be a spelling test every Wednesday. The spelling test will be done at the back of your child's home learning book, in order for you to monitor their progress and recap any words of which they are unsure.

Reading

Reading is an important part of your child's home learning and they should be reading for at least 15 minutes daily. Your child should be encouraged to read for pleasure at home and make time for reading a variety of texts: stories, information texts, magazines, newspapers, poetry, recipes, instructions, lists, cartoons, brochures, etc.

This year we will continue using the reading record booklet where you and your child will be encouraged to write comments about their reading progress. In Year 5, many children enjoy reading silently. However, it is still really important for them to read aloud regularly in order to discuss the content of what they have read. This will improve their comprehension, broaden their vocabulary and allow them to develop their skills of empathy and deduction. We would appreciate **at least** one comment by an adult weekly and for the children to record what they have read each day.

As a class, we will visit our fantastic brand new library every **Tuesday**. In this time, the teachers and teaching assistants will be supporting the children in selecting appropriate books. Each week your child will bring home a library book that they can swap in weekly library sessions. Once they have completed the grey book band books, they will be considered 'Free readers' and will be expected to read a book of their own choice at home. We hope that this will encourage the children to love reading as much as we do!

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" Philippians 4:3



Guided reading and Whole class reading will take place over the course of the week. The children will take part in a range of reading activities and will read with an adult once a week.

Mathematics

In Year 5, the children need to develop confidence in using and applying their knowledge of multiplication and related division facts. It is important that the children gain quick mental recall of multiplication facts, so that they are free to concentrate on applying them in a range of contexts, e.g. tackling long multiplication and division related problems, working out averages, carrying out work on fractions, calculating area and volume, etc.

It is important, as they learn their tables, that they develop an understanding of the link between multiplication and division, so when learning their tables they need to know that while $7 \times 3 = 21$ it is also the case that $21 \div 3 = 7$ and $21 \div 7 = 3$ etc.

The children can learn their tables any way that suits them. This could include:

- learning by rote i.e. saying the table over and over again, as a song;
- trying to identify patterns in the answers, then working out a general rule that will apply to that times table, e.g. all answers in the 5 times table end in a 5 or a 0, and the inverse for the operation of division, any number that ends in a 5 or a 0 can be divided by 5;
- using a 100 square to plot patterns;
- spotting doubles, e.g. $3 \times 8 = 24$, 6 is double 3, so $6 \times 8 = \text{double } 24 = 48$
- using fingers to do 'tricks' (e.g. 9 x table)
- answering quick fire questions in random order;
- they could tell you different ways of saying 7×5 (e.g. 7 times 5 equals 35, 7 multiplied by 5 equals 35, the product of 7 and 5 is 35)

Once your child has become more confident about the multiplication facts, they could be asked division facts and apply relevant calculations in real life situations. To further challenge your child, you could ask him/her questions like 'What is 6×40 or 6×400 ? (once they know $6 \times 4 = 24$). You could discuss how they worked out their answer when dealing with 10's, 100's, 1000's etc.

PE

In the Autumn and Spring terms, the children will have the chance to swim on a Monday with Mrs Stewart. On Fridays Ms Lamb will take PE lessons. Please ensure that the children have their PE kit/swimming costumes at school on these days. Please avoid wearing any jewellery on these days.

Creative curriculum

Our topic this half term is 'Greece is the word'. In History, the children will be learning about Ancient Greece. We have arranged for 'History off the Page' to spend the day with us on **Thursday 19th October 2016**. The children will take part in a variety of exciting and creative workshops where they will make oil lamps, mosaics, fresco paintings, etc. They will also enjoy a Greek feast and take part in dance, drama and storytelling.

We have attached our Curriculum forecast, showing what will be covered this half term. You will be able to find out further information about what we are covering in class each term on the school's website.

'All about me' display

In order for every child to feel valued and to improve their speaking and listening skills, there will be a display dedicated to them for a week. They will need to make a poster telling the other children anything about themselves (e.g. if they have siblings, their hobbies, where they come from; other languages spoken, if they have pets, etc.). If your child has been chosen to complete the 'All About me' display they will not need to complete the usual written home learning task for that week but they will still need to learn their spelling words and times tables.

If you have any queries about anything we have mentioned in this letter or indeed anything else you would like to talk about, please feel free to see us in the playground after school.

Kind regards

Tracy Stewart and Lisa Lamb