



# UPPER KEY STAGE 2 YEAR 5 AND 6 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2020

It is fantastic to see everyone back at Twyford after so long apart; the children of Year 5 and 6 have already begun to adjust to the changes put in place at school, showing great diligence and resilience, and I am confident they will continue to keep themselves and each other safe this term. This will be an important year for Year 5 and 6. We as staff will work hard to support the children in their learning, development and wellbeing, and we expect the same hard work from the children in return. We are excited to share the variety of topics, books and enriching activities we have planned this year and cannot wait to see how much the children grow and succeed.

## Curriculum

As we return to school, it is essential we support the children in gaining the skills and knowledge they need in reading, writing and mathematics, putting them in the strongest position possible for their future education. For our first seven weeks this term, we will be using two wonderful books to support our learning in English: *Words with Wings* by Nikki Grimes and *The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day* by Christopher Edge. In mathematics, we will begin by strengthening our knowledge of and fluency with place value and the four operations before moving on to fractions after the half-term break.

In addition to our work in English and mathematics, we are committed to delivering a wide and engaging curriculum and have some great topics to look forward to. Some very exciting news to share is the arrival of our brand-new set of Chromebooks over the summer holiday. This term, we will explore the many apps and features of the Google Education Suite, how it can enhance our learning at school and at home and how to keep safe online. We will also have an exciting Ancient Egypt history topic and, towards the end of the half-term, one of my favourite science topics to teach: Space.

## Wellbeing

We understand that none of the children experienced school closure and lockdown in the same way, and all of them will be feeling a range of emotions when returning to school after such a long time away. We want to do everything we can to make everyone's return to school a positive, reassuring and happy one. As such, we will make time for children to share their thoughts or concerns, discuss wellbeing as a group and take part in daily wellbeing sessions, to take place every morning as the children come into school. These sessions will help relax and focus the children each morning, will provide a reassuring way to begin each day and will include mindfulness, discussions on current affairs, learning about physical and mental wellbeing, practising breathing exercises and journaling our thoughts and emotions.

## Google Classroom and working at home

Once the children are familiar with and confident in using Google Classroom and the Google Education Suite, which I am sure will take much less time than it took the adults of Year Five and Six, we will begin to further incorporate the use of Google Classroom into our work at school and also our work at home. This will include the setting of homework tasks and the facilitation of remote home learning if your child is well but unable to attend school, for example due to isolation.

Aside from the work that is set on Google Classroom as described above, it is vital that your child read as much as possible at home, ideally every day. Reading could be the key in helping the children achieve the academic success they deserve this year, so please support your child with their reading as much as you can. We will be sending reading records home for you to update each time your child reads at home, and we will use these to fill out their reading bookmark, tracking their progress towards each Reading Award.

## Physical Education and what to bring to school

Year 5 and 6 will have their PE lessons this year every Wednesday and Thursday. In order to reduce the number of items children are carrying between home and school, we ask that, instead of bringing their PE kit to school, they come to school wearing their full school PE kit. They will remain in their PE kit for the whole day, and there is no need to bring a change of clothes. Could you please provide your child with a plastic carrier bag to keep in their tray to use in case their trainers become particularly muddy. Thank you.

Each day, your child should only bring the following to school: a water bottle (containing water, not juice), their lunch box, a reading book, their reading record, a coat and a sun hat (in the unlikely event one is needed). These should be carried in a book bag that can be kept in their tray; they should not bring a ruck sack to school.

If you have any questions or would simply like to talk about how well your child is doing, please leave a message with the school office either by email or telephone, and I will aim to get back to you as quickly as I can.

**Mr Michael Burrige**  
**Assistant Headteacher/UKS2 Class Teacher**