



Dear Parent / Carer,

It has been a pleasure to welcome all of your children back to school and to be working with them in Year 5 Starlings. They have made a positive return to school and have adapted well to our new systems and routines.

If you need to contact me at any time, please either email the office or phone and leave a message. These will be passed directly to me and I will aim to respond as soon as I am able to do so. Alternatively, pass a note via your child who can hand it to me once in class.

This year, Mrs Tipping will be covering my PPA session which falls on a Wednesday afternoon. The class have GymRun sessions on a Tuesday afternoon, led each week by Mike Weeks. Mrs Bogue will be working in the class at various times during the week to provide support for the class.

### Water bottles

Please ensure a named water bottle is brought into school each day. One with a sports top is ideal.

### Homework

#### Reading

This is a daily expectation in Year 5. Although many children prefer to read to themselves at this age, it is still important to discuss what is read and share their opinions and predictions etc. All pupils should be recording a comment in their reading records after reading and we ask parents to please initial each recorded read. It is still essential at this age to read aloud as this aids fluency and expression – please try to find time to hear your child read as often as possible. Every 5 reads signed at home will earn them a raffle ticket towards the end of term draw when three names are drawn to receive a free book. We also continue to celebrate when children have recorded 25, 50 reads, etc. during the year with certificates. Please ensure your child brings their reading book to school every day.

#### Spellings

These will be set on a Thursday and tested the following Wednesday. A sheet will be sent home each Thursday which will link to the spelling patterns we are covering in school that week. This sheet needs to be handed in the following Wednesday. Please support your child in learning their spellings in ways other than just completing the sheet, such as reciting them, repeat writing each word and quizzes at home.

#### Maths

Times Table Rock Stars is designed to be used little and often. It is suggested that children use it for a few minutes, several times a week. Children should know all tables confidently to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. MyMaths will still be in place as an option, not an expectation, for those who would like to consolidate what we have been learning in class. This will be set on Thursday each week.

### PE

GymRun sessions will take place on Tuesday afternoon and a second sport lesson will take place on Friday afternoons as a swimming lesson before the Christmas break. It is important that children have clearly named PE kits in school all week. Our PE kit is navy/dark plain shorts, a plain, white t-shirt and footwear designed for sport, as per the school policy. A dark, plain tracksuit is acceptable in the colder, winter months. After Christmas, we will have a PE lesson on a Thursday afternoon in place of the swimming lesson.

### Jewellery

Children can only wear a watch and one pair of simple stud earrings. For health and safety reasons, these will need to be removed for PE. No rings, bracelets or necklaces please. If ear-piercing is recent (less than 6 weeks), studs may be left in the ear as long as they are safely covered with micropore tape provided from home. It is the child's responsibility to ensure they bring this tape from home for this purpose. If they are not confident removing earrings, then they should not wear them into school on PE days.

### Woodland

If we are going to the woodland and children need suitable clothing, you will be advised in advance to enable children to bring this in from home.

### Medications

Any medication for children must be left at the office. If your child needs an inhaler, they should already have one in school. Inhalers will be kept safe in the classroom, in case it is needed and should be clearly marked with your child's name. If your child has recently be diagnosed, please ensure that you contact the office to let us know as soon as possible, as we need to keep a register of all asthmatics and medications.

### Home time

If your child is being collected by someone different from usual (such as going home with a friend), please can you email, ring or write a note so that I know that I have your permission for this. **Without your consent**, I am not allowed to let them go with anybody else. In Year 5, some parents may wish to allow their child to independently make their way home. If you wish your child to make their own way home after school, please inform the school office giving your consent for us to allow your child to leave school on their own.

**Please ensure that all items are named.** Our lost property basket can get quite full!

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions,

*Marie Senior*

