



Aim High,

Fly High

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer break. I am very pleased to welcome your child into Year 5. Following the odd circumstances of their return, my key focus will be settling them in, addressing any anxieties and focusing on good learning behaviours. I am sure this will not take too long - children are adaptable and sociable. I am sure they will thrive being back together within our school community and Hawks class.

Once the children are settled, we will have a very busy term ahead of us, starting with our new topic '*Explosive Earth*.' In this topic, we will study Japan and particularly the Ring of Fire, looking in detail at how earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. In the second part of the term, we will look at Pompeii, its historical evidence and what it tells us about life in the past. In addition, this term's science topics will be: '*Light*' and '*Animals including humans*', focusing on the classification of living organisms. More information about the learning we will be doing this term can be found on the curriculum grid

Due to the staggered start and end times our timetable this year will be quite different with much of our core subject learning (maths, writing, grammar, reading) taking place in the morning sessions. Year 5 will also have early morning learning and revision activities before registration so it is important that your child is present on time each morning and has had a good night's sleep.

For the Autumn term, P.E. will be on Wednesdays and will be outside PE only. Please ensure that your child has appropriate P.E. kit (plain white T-shirt, shorts or jogging trousers, sweatshirt and suitable footwear for outside activities). Please also be aware that, for health and safety reasons, earrings must be removed for P.E.

Due to the situation with covid-19, children will not be able to change for PE sessions in school and so will be **expected to wear kit to school on a Wednesday**.

Children will also run the daily mile each day and will have an outdoor learning session every Tuesday afternoon. For this reason, we request children wear trainers or robust shoes with their uniform for the rest of the week.

Children are welcome to bring in a fruit or vegetable snack to eat during morning playtime. We encourage children to bring a named bottle of water to drink during the day and this will be returned for washing every evening. Children are also required to bring their own hand sanitizer and tissues. To carry these items, children may bring a **small bag** to school each day, alongside their packed lunch. Please remember that we do not currently have access to the cloakrooms so the children must be able to hang this small bag on the back of their chair inside the classroom or put it in their tray. Packed lunches will be stored in a box in the classroom until lunchtime and then the children will remain in class to eat their lunch.

The complete grid of **optional** home learning tasks will be emailed out and put onto Starz at the beginning of each half term and your child can choose to complete one activity from the list each Friday. Each chosen piece must be completed and handed in electronically via Starz on the following Wednesday.

In addition, children will be given **compulsory** home learning of: weekly spellings (tested on Thursdays) and times tables (tested on Tuesdays). To support your child in learning these, they have access to Times Tables Rockstars and Spelling Shed, which they should play as often as possible. Your child should read regularly at home too. They will be given **compulsory** weekly Guided Reading challenges, which must be returned on Mondays via Starz.

If you have any questions or concerns following these unprecedented times that you feel you need to discuss at greater length, I would be happy to meet with you (in person at a social distance or virtually). You will be able to make an appointment with me through the school office. **You will not be able to come into school or speak to us without an arranged appointment.** Quick notices can be passed to us via the school office [office@duxford.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@duxford.cambs.sch.uk) or by leaving a message with the member of staff on gate duty.

I look forward to working with you and your child.

Kindest regards,

Miss Hobbs