



*St Francis of Assisi Voluntary Aided
Church of England Primary School*

“Live, love and learn together in the light of Christ.”

Y5 Letter to Parents/Carers – September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to St Francis to all parents and families of the Year 5 pupils! I am thrilled to be working in KS2 and am very much looking forward to getting to know you all throughout the year. The children will be also supported in class by Mrs Taylor, Mrs Evans and Mrs Murali. My PPA time will be on a Thursday afternoon, when I will be covered by Mrs Mullis (PE) and Mrs Lightfoot (Modern Foreign Languages).

The playground door will be open each morning from 8.50am to allow the children time to get into the classroom before school begins at 8.55am. Please try to ensure your child is at school on time each day.

Our topic this term is The Victorians, during which we will be learning about the Industrial Revolution, the lives of rich and poor Victorians including some famous Victorian people and we will be taking a trip to Beamish (letter about this to follow soon). During this topic, we will be reading some books set in the era and doing lots of other lovely activities and crafts. Please see the Topic Overview attached to this letter to see how the learning in the rest of the curriculum is broken down.

As ever, your role in your child’s education is very important and I would ask that you support me at home by ensuring your child reads on a daily basis, practises their spellings and Mental Maths facts (tables including division facts) and completes any homework set.

- Reading – at this age, it is not necessary to read to an adult all of the time; the children should be reading independently daily and to an adult at least once a week. They should record what they are reading in their Homework Diary. It would be helpful if you signed the Homework Diary whenever you hear your child read. Please take the time to ask your child about what they are reading, particularly if they have been reading on their own. This will help you to gauge whether they have understood what they have read and whether they are able to recall information about the book.
- Homework – your child will be given homework as and when it fits in with what we have covered in school. They may be asked to practise something we have been doing in class or to research something in preparation for a lesson. Children should record any homework in their Homework Book; they will have had the task explained to them in school. Please ensure that your child completes their homework using suitable writing equipment e.g. not felt pens, and to a high standard.

A big focus in school this year will be **resilience**. We will be spending time discussing what this means and will be promoting it in various ways: inspiring the children to challenge themselves more; encouraging the children to solve problems more independently; supporting the children to persevere even when they find something tricky; assisting the children to overcome friendship issues and maintain friendships; but most of all, discouraging an attitude of ‘giving up’. We want our pupils to be **strong, positive, resilient, responsible and happy** children.

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As the children progress through school, it is expected that they continue to develop a more responsible and resilient attitude towards independence, organisation and their learning. I will expect that all Year 5 children are able to organise their own equipment, including clothing and anything they need bring from home such as PE kits and reply slips for letters. They should be able to access what they need at school without adult support e.g. changing books, accessing dictionaries and other classroom equipment. I would be very grateful if you can try to carry this over at home as much as possible. Although the children may sometimes require help with homework and practising concepts taught in school, I would also encourage you to promote independence in this area. It would be beneficial for the children to begin these tasks without support and then know that they can ask you for help should they need it. This will hopefully give your child the skills they need to motivate themselves, manage their time and organise themselves well in preparation for later life.

Extra-curricular/Sporting Activities

In Year 5 the children will be taking part in more sporting activities which will often require travelling to another school. These events, unless otherwise stated, are for the whole class and it is a requirement that they attend as it is a vital part of the curriculum and school-life. Please ensure that the children understand their role in whole class events and help them to prepare accordingly.

PE will be taught by me on Tuesdays and Mrs Mullis on Thursdays. Please ensure your child has their kit in school on these days – as stated in the Uniform Policy, they require a white T-shirt and dark shorts as well as trainers. It is often sensible to include dark coloured tracksuit bottoms and a warmer top to wear over their T-shirt during the colder months as the children are generally outside for most PE sessions for up to an hour. I will encourage the children to bring their PE kit home each Friday to be washed if it is dirty. Please note that it is school policy for children to wear a school PE kit for PE sessions – this **MUST** be named as children do tend to mix up their clothing accidentally when getting changed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries or concerns about your child or their learning. I usually have more time after school and am available most days. We have staff meetings on a Monday which leaves little time but I will be free Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday after school if needed. You can also contact me via my email address frhjohnson@sbcschools.org.uk. It is best if you make an appointment via Mrs Douglas or Miss Pickering if you feel you need a longer chat.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to meeting you all in the coming year.

Miss Johnson

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