

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a good summer. It is so exciting to have everyone back to school after such a challenging few months and we hope that you and your child are looking forward to the new term.

English In English, we will be following a number of **Herts for Learning** English modules. This term they include explanations, report writing and rhyming poetry. Children will develop their narrative writing through studying the books '*Holes*' by Louis Sachar and '*Beowulf*' by Michael Morpurgo. While exploring the different writing styles of each genre, we will also continue to extend children's **vocabulary** through their writing and other activities. We will continue to develop the children's understanding of sentence types and other **grammatical** structures and how to use them effectively to communicate ideas for a given purpose or audience. This will be done through our writing, but may also take place in standalone grammar lessons.

Spelling will be slightly different this year as the whole school has adopted a new spelling scheme. **ESSENTIAL Spelling**, is designed to help the children apply patterns, strategies and knowledge to spelling across the curriculum and give individual targeted support where necessary. There will not be a weekly 'test', but activities in specific lessons that can also be supported and reinforced at home. The children will also have **Guided Reading** sessions throughout the week. It is important that you continue to listen to your child read aloud.

Maths In Maths, we continue to use the **Herts for Learning** materials along with other resources to support our teaching of the Primary Curriculum. Techniques to support learning include partner talk, games, book work, investigations, use of concrete materials and many other techniques. Our maths learning will focus on place value with numbers up to a million and the four different operations and strategies. We will continue to develop mental and more formal written methods of calculation. Times tables will continue to be important this term – keep practicing everyone!!

Topics and Topic Links In Year 5, our topic for the first half-term will be **The 'A' TEAM!** After such a disruptive final to last academic year, there will be plenty of opportunity for children to work collaboratively and co-operatively, across a range of curriculum areas in order that they can reconnect with their friends and life back at school. In **Geography**, children will develop mapping skills as they map the classroom and school. In **PE** children will be working together as teams in OAA (Outdoor and Adventurous Activities), Doubles Tennis. **Relationships and Health Education(RHE)**

In the second part of the autumn term, we will have a **History** focus as the children discover the Anglo Saxons, including journeys and settlements, everyday life as a Saxon, and the impact that this historical age has had upon Britain. Wherever applicable, our **English** and **Reading** lessons may also be linked to the topics above

Other Subjects

Science During this term the children will be studying forces and the properties and changes within materials. The children will be taught by Mrs Handley, our Science Curriculum Subject lead. Our topics in **Computing** this term will be online safety and coding, using the extensive resources in Purple Mash. In **RE**, the children will have the opportunity to explore the theme of what it means to Christians to have a holy and loving God, as well as looking at the story of creation and its contrast with scientific theory.

Our **DT** lessons focus on food and celebrating seasonality of food. In **Art** children we will study the design work of William Morris and also recreate Anglo Saxon pattern and textile work. **Music** will focus on musical appreciation from classical to popular tunes.

Home Learning Year 5 will receive regular homework to consolidate their learning, this will be sent out online. In addition, children will be expected to practice their statutory spellings from the Year 5/ 6 list using the strategies learned in class as well as practicing their timetables using resources such as TT Rockstars and BBC Bitesize.

Reading at Home: Reading skills are absolutely vital for all areas of learning. Some guidance on reading at home is provided below:

- Children should aim to read aloud **daily where possible**, reading on at least three out of the five weekdays and once at the weekend.
- Some children who are confident free readers may like to read in their head, but please do still ensure that they read **aloud** regularly too.
- Please support us in confirming that your child has read **by recording your initials** in the KS2 Home/School Organiser each time your child reads independently or to you. Please do talk with your child about their reading, asking them questions about the story.
- We would appreciate it if you could support us by encouraging children to choose books which provide an element of challenge. In the children's **KS2 Organiser** there is a list of recommended books for Year 5 and 6 along with information on the Lexile system, which may help guide the choices of free readers.

PE Year 5 PE lessons will take place on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. **In light of current advice, we are asking children to wear their PE kits rather than their school uniform to school on the days that they have PE.** It is our intent that children will take every opportunity to be active outside and therefore should have appropriate clothing for the activity. **PE kit** must include: trainers and plimsols (in case trainers become muddy from outdoor use), St Andrew's PE t-shirt, shorts/ joggers/ leggings and a hoodie.

Additional Information

Water bottles and snacks

All children should have a named water bottle in school every day. In addition, children are allowed to bring a healthy snack to school. This is particularly important as they will be eating their lunch slightly later than previous years and need to keep their energy levels up.

Walking Home

Your child will be able to walk to and from school unaccompanied if you are happy for them to do so. We ask that you email the school office on admin@standrews236.herts.sch.uk, with your permission. If you intend to give your child a mobile phone in case they need to contact you in an emergency on their journey to school, please indicate that this is the case in your email.

Phones will be taken from the school on their arrival and kept in a secure cupboard until home time.

Medicines

If your child has an asthma inhaler or epipen, please make sure that they are in school, in a labelled bag or container and that they are in date. Should your child require any other medicine (e.g antibiotics), please ensure that you sign a medical form available in the school office.

Contact with school.

If you have anything specific in connection with your child that you would like to discuss, please email or call the school office. I will endeavour to speak with that you at the earliest possible opportunity.