

Class 5

The Bliss Charity School



Term 1



Dear families,

It has been so great to welcome children back to school and they have already begun to show me their enthusiasm as learners. We have lots of exciting things planned for the term ahead and Mrs. Jenkinson and I are looking forward working with you and your child this year.

Year 5 is a really important time for children to develop not only their academic skills but their metacognitive ones as well, perhaps the most important of which are independence and resilience. Later this week, please view the Class 5 curriculum meeting slides online – these have lots of information about what your child can expect in Class 5 this year and will share our expectations of class work, homework and behaviour. If after reading the information you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Miss Thompson (senco@bliss.northants.sch.uk)



Term 1 Topic: *The Great Outdoors*



Our over-arching theme for this term is geography and science based. The children will start by learning all about the geography of the UK, followed by their immediate environment, studying maps and carrying out field work by walking in and around Nether Heyford. They will learn about the features of rivers and identify the main rivers of the UK. Children will also apply their learning to identify features of our very own River Nene. They will also look more widely at the world, identifying the continents and oceans, and learning more about the world's land biomes. Our science also corresponds – children will be learning about living things and their habitats, classifying organisms and then planning their own investigations to study habitats within the school grounds. They will go on to learn about the life cycles of plants and mammals.

Towards the end of the term, literacy will also be linked to our topic. Children will be researching their chosen biome and creating their own texts using adventurous scientific vocabulary and experimenting with more complex sentence structures. In art, children will be using their new knowledge of biomes to create perspective paintings and dioramas to represent their chosen biome. In ICT, children will be designing their own topic-linked apps.

We will be spending as much time as possible outside over the course of this term – please ensure children come to school with clothing and shoes to match the weather so this is a pleasurable experience for them!

Literacy and Numeracy

In literacy, we will be focusing a lot on grammar, punctuation and spelling this year but will be doing so linked to our topics as much as possible. Guided reading this term is topic linked; our text is a Bear Gryll's Outdoor Adventure. Our first writing topic is based on 'The Balaclava Story' where children will have fun exploring the issues and dilemmas faced by the main character. Through drama, they will predict their own ending and then write this in the style of the author before coming up with their own issue and dilemma story.

In maths, we will be revising place value and written methods of calculation. When ready, we will be extending these to work with larger numbers and applying knowledge to solve reasoning problems. Times tables are crucial to success in mathematics this year so please keep practicing – whether children are with myself or Mrs. Jenkinson for maths, they will have a regular times tables test and will be rewarded for their hard work.

Helping Your Child at Home ...

Homework will always be given on a **Friday**. On every other Friday, children will be given a learning log topic – they will be expected to produce a double page project on the given topic. We will always discuss ideas in class first, they will be given suggestions for what should be included and then we will share them as class once they have been marked. These are a great opportunity for children to engage their metacognitive skills and attitudes – best efforts will always be rewarded with a suitable token – as well as to develop their writing techniques and targets. On the other Friday, children will be given a piece of homework to practise their SPaG skills (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and mathematical skills (this may be via the *MyMaths* platform).

All homework is due in by **Wednesday** at the latest. Children will be expected to complete homework during a subsequent lunch break if it is not handed in. Children should be encouraged to complete homework as independently as possible – please encourage them to come and talk to us if they are having any difficulties so we can give them further support.

If children do nothing else, they should read, read, read! Children should be reading for at least 20 minutes every day. This should be recorded by children themselves in their lovely new reading record. If these are lost, a new one will need to be purchased from the office. Mrs. Jenkinson will take in reading records every **Monday** and is looking forward to seeing what children are reading. If children have read five times or more at home during the week, they will move around our reading challenge food board and achieve rewards along the way!

Spellings will be tested via a spelling bee on a Monday – more details about this will be sent home separately.

Other Class 5 Information ...

Class 5 PE is on a Monday and Wednesday – unlike last year, children will need to bring their PE kit with them on these days so they are able to change. Please see www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/school/school-uniform if unsure about this. Children will be following the 'Real PE' scheme for Year 5. As the weather gets cooler, they will need warm kit as PE lessons will take place outside as far as is practicable.

In RE, children will be learning about Hinduism. Children will continue to learn French on Wednesday mornings.

Friday afternoons are my PPA time – Mrs. Jenkinson will be teaching PSHE and music in this time, starting with covering the 'Protective Behaviours' programme. Mrs. Jenkinson will also teach for another afternoon each week to allow me release time to carry out some of my Deputy/SENCo responsibilities.