

# Class 5

*The Bliss Charity School*



## Term 1



Dear families,

It has been so great to welcome children back to school this week after such a strange few months. They have been brilliant at learning the new procedures we have in place to keep everyone as safe as possible and they have already started to show me their enthusiasm as learners.

Whilst school can't look quite the same as it did last year, we have lots of exciting things planned for the term ahead. Mrs. Anderson, 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.

Unfortunately, we can't hold our curriculum meetings in person this year; however, on Friday 11th September, a written version will be sent home. This will have lots of information about what your child can expect 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*



## 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 and their immediate environment by studying maps and then carrying out field work. They will learn about the features of rivers and identify the main rivers of the UK. They will also learn to explain the water cycle and understand its importance for all life on earth. They will then look more widely at the world, identifying the continents and oceans, and learning more about the world's biomes. This will then link in with learning about living things and their habitats in science. Children will be classifying organisms and then planning their own investigations to study habitats within the school grounds. We 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, the children will be using their knowledge of biomes to create perspective paintings to represent their chosen biome.

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.

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 practising – whether children are with myself or Mrs. Anderson 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. Anderson 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 on this to follow soon!**

## Other Class 5 Information ...

- On Wednesdays, I will be spending the day out of the classroom fulfilling Deputy Head and SENCo responsibilities. Mrs. Randall will be teaching French, maths and literacy in the morning; she will then be teaching science and art or DT in the afternoon.
- Class 5's PE day is a Thursday – children will need to come to school in school PE kit (please see <https://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 all PE lessons must take place outside for the foreseeable future.
- In computing, children will be developing a variety of skills, starting with creating their own apps.
- Friday afternoons are my PPA time – Mrs. Anderson will be teaching RE, which this term focusses on stories of faith from several religions, and Mrs. Jenkinson will be leading PHSE sessions which are aimed at developing children's wellbeing and sense of community – this will also cover the 'Protective Behaviours' programme.