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12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 5! We have had a great start to the term and it has been lovely to see the children settle in so well.

Our enquiry question this term is 'What story does every picture tell?' and we will be exploring this primarily through our geography and art lessons, and all three of our chosen texts for English and guided reading complement this theme too. We will be developing our geographical skills by learning to 'read' photographs of given locations to learn about their populations and physical features, and learn how to analyse and represent climatic and demographic data of these regions to extend our understanding further. The regions we will be looking at - Sydney, Australia and the 'Valley of Roses' in Southern Morocco - have been chosen to complement our studies of the text *Mirror*, by Jeannie Baker. We will compare and contrast the physical and demographic data of these regions, and also compare and contrast them with data from our own locality.

In English, we will start the term by focussing on the picture book '*Mirror*' by Jeannie Baker. This thought-provoking picture book follows the lives and perspectives of two families – one from Australia and one from Morocco – and examines how they are both different and the same. This text is being explored as part of a whole-school focus on diversity, to fit with our 'Well-Rounded' school value. In Year Five, as well as exploring these themes around diversity, we will also be using its striking artwork to inspire descriptive writing of characters and settings in our English lessons. In addition to *Mirror*, we will be using another inspiring picture book, '*Flotsam*' by David Weisner to inspire our writing. This book tells the story of a boy who finds an underwater camera on the beach and develops the film to reveal vivid and surreal images of fantastic underwater worlds, and surprising portraits of children from other times and places who have also discovered this magical underwater camera. Using the Talk for Writing approach, we will compose 'back stories' for these characters, and also complete some autobiographical pieces of writing to tell some of our own stories. We are using an illustrated chapter book, '*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*' by Brian Selznick. We are reading this book as a whole class, and using comprehension questions on each chapter to develop our retrieval and inference skills. To appreciate the stunning illustrations, the book is being shown on the interactive whiteboard, but the children are also able to physically read copies of the text one between two. If your child has their own copy of this book at home, they may want to bring it in for their own personal use during these sessions. Please ensure all books sent into school are named. In Year 5, we teach grammar and punctuation both discretely through our Early Morning Grammar sessions which happen twice a week, and as part of our standard English lessons. Spelling patterns are taught discretely throughout the week. Please support your child with their spellings by encouraging them to use and practise the words we will be uploading onto Seesaw weekly..

In Maths, our focus will be upon number and place value this term. We are continuing with our use of Power Maths. This scheme takes a mastery approach, and enables the children to participate in whole-class activities and discussions about different aspects of number. We will also be continuing to provide children with opportunities to practise their arithmetic and times tables skills through our Early Morning Maths sessions which happen three mornings a week at the start of the school day. Please can you support your child as much as possible with practising their times tables outside of school. All of them will continue to have a TT Rockstars account. Please see one of us if you require help accessing this.

In Science, we will be investigating Forces, and conducting a range of experiments to build on the children's understanding of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object, the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces and the fact that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

In Art, we will be drawing inspiration from our focus picture books Mirror and Flotsam. We will begin by exploring a variety of collage techniques, inspired by Jeannie Baker's work, and build towards creating our own collaged background of the South Downs. We will then move onto looking at photographic techniques, and have a go at creating photographic portraits of ourselves. We will select an appropriate photo portrait of ourselves to include in our collage of the South Downs.

PE will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this term. We will be following our Real PE scheme of work to take part in a range of games and activities, and we will also be doing whole-class yoga. Please ensure your child is wearing their full named PE kits to school on those days (including trainers). We are unable to allow the children to wear any jewellery during PE, so if your child has pierced ears, please can they either not wear their earrings to school, or be able to take them out. It would be useful if they could have a small pot or bag to keep these in to ensure they do not get lost. Newly pierced ears can be taped at home on these days. If your child is unable to do PE for any reason, please inform us in writing or tell us on the gate.

Other areas of the curriculum will include PSHE (where we will be focusing on positivity, respect and empathy and reinforcing children's understanding of the Zones of Regulation code), Computing (which will this term be embedded across the curriculum), French (focusing on learning vocabulary about where we live), RE (an overview of the muslim faith, to tie in with the Local Authority's revised RE curriculum) and music (where we will be having whole-class ukulele lessons and also learning Harvest Festival songs).

Homework will be set on Fridays to be completed by the following Wednesday. It will be an online MyMaths task and a spelling activity set on Seesaw. Homework will be completed via SeeSaw/MyMaths unless otherwise stated. We will also be setting a long 'takeaway' home learning task this term to complement our enquiry question 'What story does every picture tell us?'. We will be asking Year 5 to become photo journalists and produce their own series of photos exploring the theme of diversity in Lewes – please look out for further details of this later this week.

We would also like to remind you that we promote a Healthy Lifestyle at Western Road. We thank you for your support in ensuring children are eating healthy foods throughout the day to enable to sustain full concentration and optimise their learning experience.

We are really looking forward to teaching your children in Year 5. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to see one of us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hamilton, Ms Callow and Mrs Johnson –  
the Year 5 Team