

WESTERN ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
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13th September 2021

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 focus this term is on Scandinavia. We will be developing our geographical skills by researching the physical environment, climate, culture and customs of the countries in this region. This topic complements our focus on Roald Dahl this term.

In English, we will be focussing on Roald Dahl's autobiography, *Boy*. In particular, we will be studying the techniques he uses to make his memories entertaining to his readers. We will be taking inspiration from his autobiography to complete our own autobiographical pieces of writing. In addition, we will be exploring a range of poetry this term, in order to help the children to further develop an effective use of descriptive writing techniques. We have already completed a school-wide focus on *The Emotional Menagerie*, which is a collection of poems exploring our emotions, which was a great success with all of our writers in Year Five. We are using another Dahl text, *The BFG*, for our guided reading sessions. Through this text, the children will be completing activities to build on their retrieval and inference skills. We have purchased enough copies of *Boy* and *The BFG* to ensure that every child has a book to share with their learning partner. This way, the whole class can participate when we read. 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. We will also continue to teach grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPAS) both discretely through our Early Morning Grammar sessions which happen twice a week, and as part of our standard English lessons. Please support your child with their spellings by encouraging them to use and practise the words in the vocabulary bank which we will be sending you shortly.

In Maths, our focus will be upon number, which we have started by revisiting place value through a new scheme of work called 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 completing a number of pieces to celebrate who we are, to ease the transition back into school life, and to explore celebrate our role both as individuals and members of the school community. The children have already produced superb portrait pieces inspired by Andy Warhol's Elvis portrait and learnt about the significance of the Pop Art movement. To complement our Scandinavian topic, we will also be completing some Scandinavian-inspired embroidery.

PE will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays 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 some orienteering activities to build on our teamworking skills as we settle into our first term in Upper Key Stage 2. 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

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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 Sikh faith, which will be a focus throughout Year 5) and music (where we will be exploring and discussing music inspired by traditional Scandinavian folk stories).

Homework will be set on Fridays to be completed by the following Wednesday. It will usually be an online MyMaths task and a topic or English related activity set on Seesaw. Homework will be completed via SeeSaw/MyMaths unless otherwise stated. We are also trialling a new way of practising spellings this term. You will soon receive a Vocabulary Bank, which is a list of words your child will encounter in their English, topic and science lessons this term. We will be using these words a lot in class, and we would like to discuss them with your child and encourage them to use them in spoken sentences and to practise spelling them where possible too.

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 and Miss Patience - Year Five Class Teachers