

**WESTERN ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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. Our recent drama workshop, facilitated by Holly Atkins, explored this theme and was a great way for the children to immerse themselves in his work. We will also be reflecting on how his real-life experiences may have inspired some of his stories and characters. 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 Magic Box* by Kit Wright, 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 PowerMaths. 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 changes in materials, and conducting a range of experiments to build on the children's understanding of reversible and irreversible changes.

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 silhouette self-portraits which have enabled us to learn a lot about them and their interests. We will be following this with a portrait piece inspired by Andy Warhol's Elvis portrait.

PE will take place on Mondays and Thursdays this term. On Monday afternoons, we will be following our Real PE scheme of work to take part in a range of games and activities. On Thursday afternoons, we have yoga and orienteering. Please ensure your child is wearing their full named PE kits to school on those days (including trainers or plimsolls). 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), Computing (which will this term be embedded across the curriculum), French (a recap on previous learning), RE (an overview of religion and different beliefs) and music (where we will be exploring and discussing rhythms, different musical instruments and dimensions of music).

Homework will be set on Fridays to be completed by the following Wednesday. It will usually be an online MyMaths task and we will also be trialling the use of a Homework grid later in the term, where your child should choose one task from a selection of varied activities per fortnight. These will be a range of topic related activities. 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. Please check the School Newsletter for further guidelines as to what should be included in your child's packed lunch. 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 getting to know your children better and going on this new learning journey together. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to see one of us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bedford and Mrs Hamilton - Year Five Class Teachers