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Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents, guardians and children,

Welcome to Year Five!

We hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday and are as ready as we are to start the new school year after a very strange end to the last year and a long-time of home-learning for the majority of you. We can't quite believe that we haven't seen most of the children since March and are so excited to get back to school properly. We understand that starting a new school year at this time may feel slightly different or more daunting than normal, but we want to assure you that as a school and a year group team we will be doing everything we possibly can to ensure your child has a safe, happy and positive start to Year 5.

We were lucky enough to speak to lots of you on our New to Year 5 Parents Zoom meeting back in July and know that you have had lots of updates through Mrs Martin's dojos, but we wanted to take this opportunity to confirm some of the important details with you.

Start and end of the school day

To help keep us all safe, the school is adopting a longer window for entering school in the morning. The children can arrive anytime between 8:30 and 9:00am. They will leave you at the school gate and be greeted by school staff as parents will not be able to enter the playground in the mornings.

<p>In Year 5, the children will need to enter through the Year 5/6 Playground Gate.</p>	<p>They should then follow the blue line, making sure they are walking in single file.</p>	<p>They will enter school through this door on the Year 5/6 Playground.</p>	<p>They will walk to the end of this corridor, where adults will be waiting to show you to your classroom.</p>	<p>5DS – classroom at the end of this corridor, closest to the Morphus and Nonsense Shop.</p> <p>5ND – up the stairs, classroom on the right.</p> <p>5EK – up the stairs, classroom on the left.</p>

At the end of the day, the children will need to be collected from the Upper School Playground near the large field. Pick up time for Year 5 children is 3:10pm. It is important to please try and be as punctual as possible as the times have been staggered to avoid you mixing with parents and children from other year groups. If you have siblings to collect from other year groups, we will of course be understanding of this and understand you may be delayed slightly.

Walking home:

If you give permission and are happy for your child to walk home by themselves at the end of the day. Then please fill out the form below. We will not be able to allow any children to leave without an adult unless this has been completed.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQXKOJzvp8SeHVCIGCb3ADJsn95Yiy1kArbbBSYTG_gGezqw/viewform

Face coverings / masks:

Please remember that face masks must be worn by adults when dropping off and collecting children from school. In addition, children at school will need to wear masks when arriving and leaving school so please make sure your child is wearing one when they arrive in the morning.

PE day

In Year 5, our PE day will be Monday. To limit the amount of bags etc coming to and from school, we are asking the children to come to school dressed in their PE kit on this day. To meet Covid guidelines, we will be doing PE outside wherever possible so please ensure the PE kit your child comes dressed in is appropriate for this. We will do our best to remind you on Dojo about this for the first few weeks. This excludes the first day of term (Monday 7th September – we will not be completing our usual PE this day so PE kit is not required, therefore please send the children in wearing school uniform as normal).

Fridays

School will finish at 2pm for the children on Fridays. The children will need to be collected from the upper school playground usual door at 2pm please. In addition, children are allowed to wear non-school uniform on Fridays too, as long as it is comfortable and appropriate clothing.

Bringing things from home:

We would like to remind you to please ensure your children are not bringing non-necessary items in from home. This includes pencil cases, accessories, toys etc. The children do not need to bring in a school bag. To limit cross contamination, there will be no cloakrooms therefore the children will keep their coat on their chair and their lunchbox in their trays along with their school books and stationary packs supplied by school.

Lunch:

If your child has a packed lunch, they can bring it in a lunch box or in a plastic bag. All packed lunches will be kept separate and in children's trays. We do therefore recommend keeping ice packs with the lunch to keep it cool and fresh.

If your child is having a hot dinner at school this must please be booked in advance and order must be made by a Friday for the following week. Lunch orders placed over a weekend will not be counted. In addition, Mrs Buck will not be able to book meals on behalf of parents anymore due to Data Protection therefore you must book your child's meal. If you do not book a meal, then you will need to please provide one and bring it into school. Due to Covid19 and planned movement around the school, we cannot provide meals that have not been booked as it would be a health and safety issue for other year groups with their staggered times.

Snacks and water bottles:

If children would like a snack, they will need to bring their own healthy snack from home as there will be no longer be a Snack Trolley for the foreseeable future. This should be a separate item to what's in their lunchbox if possible. The children will need to bring a water bottle in with them each day (we can supply one from school if need be, just let us know), which will then be taken home to be cleaned and brought back the following day.

Bike Permits

If your child bikes to school and keeps their bike locked in school grounds, you will need to please apply for a bike permit. If you would like to apply for a bike permit simply complete the form below. The school has limited spaces so will be allocating these to pupils who live the furthest away from school. The school will be handing out the permits on Tuesday 8th September. There will be no bikes allowed until then due to a safe return on the first day. Once the permits are allocated, a space will be given and guidance on using it safely. Please complete the simple form in the link below if you would like to apply.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMdtOLYKQdrfM4PxOXD08sVnUpli_2hUyNZMKvymO5aJBlw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Curriculum

As stated previously, our Autumn topic is 'To Infinity and Beyond' and we cannot wait to immerse ourselves in everything Space related. We know the children are very excited for this too! In addition, as part of our recovery curriculum and to support the children's return to school life, the first two weeks will be focused on the wonderful children's called book 'Here We Are'. We will be competing a range of PSHE, creative and writing activities surrounding this book before we begin our usual curriculum plans.

Homework

Homework is a vital part of the children's learning and this will continue as they move into Year Five. There will be a new style Homework Menu which your child will receive in the first couple of weeks. This will outline the daily homework tasks as well as the half termly topic homework. The children will not have homework books that they will be bringing to and from school. We will be using Class Dojo portfolios to submit all homework in the future. You will receive more information about this in due course. The children will be able to take home reading books on a Monday but these must then stay at home until Friday when they can be returned and cleaned ready for the following week.

Additional Information:

- Frequent handwashing will be a part of the class timetable each day.
- If your child becomes unwell in school with suspected Covid19 we would telephone you to pick your child up. You would then need to book and take your child for a test which can be booked online at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> Once the results have been given to you, please let the school know.
- We will let adults at home know if there is a suspected case in your child's bubble/class so you are able to pick up your child if you want to or leave them until the test result is back the next day. If the case is positive or negative, we will inform you but not share the pupils name or details. Staff will be confidential and will support parents and pupils throughout.

Many thanks in advance for all your help and support with your child's education and well-being it is so important that we work together for the benefit of your child. We understand that this is a very different start to the school year than usual and appreciate you may have questions or worries – if this is the case please do not hesitate to contact us on Class Dojo who will do their best to help you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information,

Kind Regards,

Miss Dooley and the Year 5 Team.