



# FISHERGATE

## YEAR 5/6

## NEWSLETTER



### Welcome to a new year in 5/6!

The following information should answer most of your questions about our routines. Please come and see us at the end of a school day if you want a chat about anything.

#### How can we help with reading?

Daily reading is very important because it develops not only higher level reading skills, but also has a huge impact on writing. We have opportunities to read every day in school and pupils should be reading at home regularly. If your child is a fluent reader they may well be reading independently. **Don't let them tell you, however, that they are too old for a bedtime story!** This is a really special time with your child. Please still talk to your child about their reading as this helps develop a deeper understanding and encourage them to read a range of texts: fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

#### How do the planners work?

The planner is really useful in lots of ways. There are pages for your child to record their spellings, their targets and books read, as well as containing useful subject specific information and their diary for the week. The planner should come into school every day; **please read and sign weekly**. It lets you know what your child is up to during the week, including homework arrangements and spellings to be learnt. We also write comments in every planner regularly, highlighting something positive they have achieved – it would be great for your child if you were to acknowledge these. We use the planners to record information about your child's reading, and would learn a lot if you could do the same. Your child will make even better progress if we are all aware of his or her next step in reading, and are working towards that together.

#### What homework will my child have?

We believe that homework is a crucial bridge between home and school and supports children's learning in the classroom. Homework not handed in will be completed during children's own time within the school day, unless a legitimate reason is given. Please support your child in this. During a typical week, the children will receive and be expected to return homework on the following days:

##### Maths

Given out on a Thursday      **Returned on a Tuesday**  
Everyone has a mathematics account (log in details are in their planner – another reason to bring it to and from school!) Four tasks are set each week, to be completed by Tuesday. Time will be made in school for those who do not have access to the internet at home, but other pupils will have to catch up on their tasks in school time if these have not been completed.

##### English/Topic

**Given out on a Friday**  
**Returned on a Wednesday**

#### What spellings will my child be learning?

Spelling grids of words relating to the rule or pattern being studied are glued into the planner. Children should use their joined handwriting to practise these words using 'Look, Cover, Write, Check'. We teach children strategies to help them really look and then remember the spellings. They are given out and tested once a week. Children are also given one of ten 'gemstone' bookmarks of the 100 National Curriculum words to learn as well.

Alongside this children are expected to read their reading books and practise times tables.

#### What PE kit does my child need?

Children should have a plain t-shirt and shorts and outdoor trainers. Trainers are especially important to support their feet properly during PE and the daily mile. They should have a sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms or leggings for when the weather gets colder.

Children who wear earrings must bring tape to cover them or be able to take them out themselves.

#### When does my child need PE kit?

**Wednesday** –all classes

**Friday**- DR/JB class

**Friday**-MS class

**Monday** –AW/AJ class

#### What are the routines for the start and end of the school day?

Please ensure that your child is in the playground at 8:40am ready for when the whistle blows. Children come in independently, as they do in Year 3/4. This helps children to be ready and settled to start the day at 8.45. It also disrupts the rest of the children when others arrive late. At 3.15, the class is released from the classroom and the children make their own way to you in the playground. Some Year 5/6 pupils walk to and from school by themselves – it is for you to decide when they are ready.

#### Can I volunteer in school?

If you would like to come in and listen to children read or help them practise their times tables or spellings, please let us know! We would love to have you.

And last, but definitely not least.....

We have a straightforward uniform policy designed to ensure parents can kit out their children inexpensively and practically for school.

The full uniform list is available on the website, but we would like to draw your attention to a couple of points:

Shoes must be plain black, with no obvious logos. This includes the soles and laces.

Please, *please* name your child's clothes to save us time holding up identical red jumpers!

No jewellery other than a watch or simple ear studs may be worn.

Thank you

We hope this information is helpful and we look forward to continuing to work together to ensure your child is happy, feels safe and makes good progress.