



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 to see us at the end of a school day if you want a chat about anything. We (Dani Rees, Josh Burnell, Ellie Ball and Andrea Walton) are here to help.

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. 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 can use the planner to share information about their reading.

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 Friday **Returned by the following Tuesday**

English/Topic

We will set a longer-term project related to learning in school for your child to complete over several weeks. Usually, we have a session for children to share their work with their friends; the children really enjoy these opportunities to show off what they have created.

What spellings will my child be learning?

Children are given one of ten 'gemstone' bookmarks of the 100 National Curriculum words to learn. We teach children strategies to help them really look and then remember the spellings.

We subscribe to Spelling Shed, a fantastic online resource to support spelling. Activities are available for the children to support the development of their spelling skills.

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

What PE kit does my child need?

We are currently asking all children to come to school in PE kit on the days they have PE. Children should have a plain t-shirt under their school sweatshirt and navy/black shorts/track suit bottoms and outdoor trainers. Trainers are especially important to support their feet properly during PE. If they are doing PE on the field, they will be asked to bring a change of shoes to avoid walking mud back into the building.

Children who wear earrings must bring tape to cover them or be able to take them out themselves. Ideally, they should come to school without earrings on PE days.

When does my child need PE kit?

Wednesday –all classes

Friday- DR/JB class

Friday-EB class

Monday –AW class

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

School starts at 8.45. The gates open at 8.40 and each class lines up separately. Children who arrive late will need to come through the front door and go to reception. As well as creating extra work for the office staff, it is unsettling for children to arrive late. There is an activity for children to do in class from 8.45 so please ensure your child is on time.

School finishes at 3.15. Children in Year 5/6 are allowed to travel to and from school independently with your permission; they can also be collected by you from the playground. This is a great time to come and chat to us, too.

Can I volunteer in school?

Yes you can! If you are willing to give up your time to help us with reading, times tables or spellings (or anything else!) please come and have a chat.

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.

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.