Year 5 Aspen
Class teacher: Miss Matharu
Teaching Assistant: Mrs Shah

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be teaching your child this year, and it is lovely to see how well they have settled in already. Mrs Shah and Ms Thompson will be supporting Year 5 this year and we all look forward to engaging your child throughout this challenging and enjoyable year. We are dedicated to working with you to create the best possible outcomes for your children.

This is my first year at West Twyford Primary School and my 4th year teaching. I am committed to making all subjects fun and enjoyable as they all play a valuable part in our everyday lives. I am also passionate about Reading and Drama, so will be incorporating these elements into Aspen Class as much as possible.

The aim of this letter is to inform you of the topics that we will explore throughout the autumn term, and provide you with information about skills, knowledge and concepts that will be developed.

Class Split: This year we will be splitting both classes into 3 groups of around 20 for Numeracy and Literacy. Each group will be mixed ability and the third group will be created from children from both Aspen and Silver Birch, and will be taught by Mrs Croyden. The aim is to have 3 smaller classes in which the ratio of teacher to pupils allows much more focused pupil attention from the teachers. This follows a very successful trial run in year 6 last year.

Numeracy: We will be using the Singapore Maths approach to teaching and embedding skills such as mental maths, reasoning and problem solving. One of the key principles behind the Singapore Maths textbook is the concrete-pictorial-abstract approach, often referred to as the CPA approach. The Singapore Maths lesson typically includes: The Anchor Task, which will allow children to explore multiple methods of solving a problem; a Maths Journal which is an opportunity for children to provide a visual and written reflection on which key methods that work for them; Guided Practice, where activities are completed collaboratively, and finally independent practice where pupils have the opportunity to reinforce concepts by solving a range of problems from a workbook.
The topics covered this term in Numeracy will be:

- Numbers to 100,000
- Whole numbers: Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Word Problems

**Literacy:** Our main schemes for reading and writing in Key Stage 2 are *Big Reading* and *Big Writing*. These schemes are designed to best equip our learners in all literary devices, giving greater context to the children's learning on which to build comprehension. We concentrate primarily on vocabulary, connectives, sentence openers and punctuation. The children write at length, once a week, in different text types. Their writing is inspired by texts of different genres which are, wherever possible, linked to their Project. An important part of their writing is the speaking and listening activities linked to the text both in the classroom and at home. As part of their weekly preparation for their 'Big Writing', we will be sending home weekly 'Big Talk' homework every Thursday evening. This is designed to give parents an opportunity to discuss their children's writing with them and to participate in the imaginative process, of which talking is a key part.

During *Big Reading* lessons, the children are taught strategies to use in written comprehension. Children will be taught to refer to the text to support their opinions and use actions, dialogue and description to read between the lines, and to understand characters' points of view. This term children will be reading a novel called 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty.

In all classes, we endeavour to encourage children to develop a love of reading. It is essential that children read on a regular basis at home, both to an adult and independently. We would encourage regular reading every day.

**Spellings:** In addition to the daily focus on using correct spellings, dictionaries and the phonics scheme, we also hold our own Spelling Bee competition. The words, which the children are expected to learn for each Spelling Bee heat, will be embedded into their classroom learning. We will also be sending spelling patterns to be learnt for our fortnightly spelling tests.

**Science:** The children will be studying 'Forces' and 'Materials and their Properties'. While learning about forces, children will participate in a range of experiments which will allow greater understanding of gravity, air resistance, water resistance as well as levers, gears and pulleys. During our topic on 'Materials and their Properties' the children will discover the properties of materials and explore reversible and irreversible changes.

**Project:** We will be studying the Victorian era, focusing on the lives of children the social aspects of the Victorian era and the advances that were made in science and technology. We will visit the Ragged School Museum to experience a Victorian Lesson and handling and exploring artefacts in a Victorian kitchen.

**Music:** This year the children will be taught music by Miss Parker and they will learn about world music and Djembe drumming. The children will also take part in weekly singing lessons.
Religious Education: During the first half of this term, children will be learning about Sikhism. During the second half of the autumn term children will also be learning about moral dilemmas.

Physical Education: The themes for PE will include the development of partner work, especially planning, using sequences and group work to music. The children will work with a partner or group and will be asked to consolidate their skills to perform sequences. The children will continue to be taught by Mr Graham. Your children should bring their P.E kit on a Monday and take it home on a Friday.

Art/DT: The Art and DT projects will all be linked to other curriculum areas throughout the year, for example, sewing and painting related to the Victorians. They will have an opportunity to develop a variety of skills and use a wide range of materials in these lessons.

Information Communication Technology and Computing: Children will also be learning about E-safety and there will be continuous ICT incorporation within all lessons, particularly project where students will develop their computer literacy skills.

French: The children will continue to learn French and this is taught for half an hour every week by Miss Muir.

Homework: The homework set for this term will support your child’s learning in class. The purpose is to practise and reinforce the work children have learnt in the week. As previously mentioned, we will also be sending home ‘Big Talk’ homework, which is an important part of the children’s preparation for Big Writing. This will be set on Thursday and is due in on Friday. Other homework includes a Maths task and an English activity. These tasks are set on Friday and are due in on Tuesday. In addition to this, children will be able to access both Mathletics and Education City from home using the logins provided. Your child would also benefit from regularly reading aloud to an adult and should also learn their spellings. Daily reading is in addition to this.

Please feel free to come to school to discuss any issues or concerns you may have; either make an appointment with us, Ms Collum, the Deputy, or Miss Martin, the Head Teacher.

If you would like to help in school or have a particular specialism which we could use, please let us know.

Furthermore, you will find up-to-date information on events in the school office, and also on the school website. The newsletter is sent out by email every Friday afternoon (or a paper copy is sent to those without email). Other general letters are sent by email. Letters with a parental permission slip will be sent on paper via the children’s book bags.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Matharu
Class Teacher

Rachel Martin
Headteacher