Year 5 Silver Birch
Class Teacher: Mr Flynn
Teaching Assistant: Mrs Garcia

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a wonderful Easter break.

We are very much looking forward to working with you to enable your child to achieve the best outcomes at school this term.

This letter is designed to inform you of the topics that will be taught throughout the Summer term and provide information about what is planned for your child’s lessons; what skills, knowledge and concepts are being developed and what learning objectives are being taught.

**Numeracy:** Your child will continue to learn Maths through the Singapore approach which enables children to develop number sense and reasoning skills. We will continue to use this Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach to build a solid foundation for conceptual understanding. This term we will cover the following topics:

- Decimals
- Percentages
- Geometry
- Position and Movement
- Area and Perimeter
- Volume
- Roman Numerals

Aside from Singapore Maths, we are also encouraging the children to regularly practise their mental maths on websites such as Mathletics and Education City.

**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.

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 and analysing War Poetry and Michael Morpurgo’s Elephant in the Garden.

In all classes we endeavour to encourage children to develop a love of reading. It is essential that children read every day, both to an adult and independently.

This term we will also focusing closely on presentation and handwriting. In order for children to achieve the expected standard for Year 5, it is a requirement that their handwriting is neat, legible and joined. The same standard of presentation is also expected in homework.

**Reading books/Library Books:** Children take home their reading book every day. We expect the children to read for at least half an hour daily and request their parents/guardians to sign their reading records.

**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 that are expected to be learned for each heat will be embedded into their classroom learning. I will also be sending weekly spellings for revision which are to be learnt every week for our weekly spelling tests on Fridays.

**Science:** We will be learning about Plants and Animal life cycles including humans. As part of this unit we will be growing a variety of flowers and vegetables in our Year 5 vegetable patch. Whenever possible, we will be linking Science projects to other areas of the curriculum such as Literacy and Art.

**Project:** We will be studying World Wars: we will be looking at the causes and events of both WWI and WWII.

**Music:** This term the children will be taught music by Miss Parker and they will have an opportunity to learn all about sea shanties and djembe drumming. The children will also take part in weekly singing lessons. The children will also continue to develop their skills in playing the recorder.

**Religious Education:** Children will be learning about Seeds of Unity and Pilgrimage.

**PSHE:** This term we will be following the Ealing PSHE Scheme of Work for RSE (Relationship and Sex Education).

**Physical Education:** The themes for PE will include the development of partner work, especially planning, and using sequences on apparatus 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.
PE kits should be in school every day i.e. brought in to school on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. Your child will need white or navy sports shorts, T-shirt, jogging bottoms and sweatshirt, as well as socks and trainers **all labelled** with their name in a named PE bag.

**Art/DT:** This term we will be studying the war artist Paul Nash, and using his work to learn sketching and collage skills. We will be working towards creating our own World War 1 propaganda posters.

**Information Communication Technology and Computing:** The children will be developing word processing skills including size, colour and style of font; illustration of work using the internet, cutting, copying and pasting work, drawing and enhancing presentation with bullets, borders and Word Art. Children will also be learning about E-safety and there will be continuous ICT incorporation within all lessons, especially project.

**Homework**
The homework set for your child is designed to support their learning in class. The school's homework policy states that your child should receive regular homework. Homework is set on Thursday to be returned the following Tuesday.

Regular homework is as follows:
Monday: Spelling - this should be practised daily but does not need to be returned.
Thursday: Big Talk Homework (Returned the next day for Big Write)
Friday: Literacy and Maths

*Please remember to use our online learning resources i.e. Reading Cloud, Mathletics and Education City for which your child has user names and passwords.*

There may be other additional pieces of homework from time to time.
Discussion about homework is equally useful in your home language if this is not English.

Parents are warmly welcomed to our sharing assembly each Friday afternoon at 2.45 p.m.

**Notices**
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). Letters with a parental permission slip will be sent out via the children's book bags. Please check book-bags daily.

**Finally**
The support of the family is immensely important where pupil progress is concerned. Here are some of the ways you can help your child make good progress at school:

- Ensure your child gets enough sleep.
- Ensure reading happens for a short period every day. Be a reader yourself. Encourage your child to read quietly; read to your child; have your child read to you or a sibling; talk with enthusiasm to your children about what they are reading; visit and join the local library; use our new Reading Cloud.
- Ensure homework is done and returned on time. Encourage your child to relish the challenge of work that is difficult.
- Talk to your child about their learning. Ask them about the **learning dispositions** they use at school and encourage them to use them. Our West Twyford learning dispositions
are: curiosity, bravery, independence, co-operation, creativity, resilience, discipline and making links.

- Praise your child for the effort they put into their learning.

I hope I have given you an insight into life in our classroom and any other issues, which you may have had queries about. I look forward to teaching your children this term, and am confident that we will have an exciting and successful time together.

Please feel welcome to make an appointment with me, Ms Collum, the Deputy Headteacher, or Miss Martin, the Headteacher, if there is anything you need to discuss further.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and challenging year ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Flynn
Class teacher

Miss Martin
Headteacher