Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be teaching your child this year and looking forward to the exciting challenges and activities we have planned for your child in this spring term. As you know, Mrs Garcia and Mrs Lyons will be supporting the children in both year 5 classes. This letter is designed to inform you of the topics that will be covered throughout the spring term and provide you with information about skills, knowledge, and concepts that are being developed and what learning objectives are being taught.

**Numeracy:** As you are aware, West Twyford has adopted the Singapore Maths approach to teaching and embedding skills such as mental maths, reasoning and problem-solving. One of the key principles behind Singapore Maths is the concrete-pictorial-abstract approach, often referred to as the CPA approach. The Maths lesson typically includes: The Anchor Task, which will allow children to explore multiple methods of solving a problem; a Maths Journal Task, which is an opportunity for children to provide a visual and written reflection on which key methods 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:**
- Problem Solving
- Graphs
- Timetables
- Fractions
- Decimals

**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’, I will be sending home weekly ‘Big Talk’ homework to be completed every Thursday evening. This is designed to give parents an
opportunity to discuss 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 studying a poem called ‘The Highwayman’ and will be reading a novel called ‘Clockwork’ by Philip Pullman. They will be focusing on the skills required for inference and prediction.

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. I would encourage a minimum of 30 minutes per 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 that are expected to be learned for each Spelling Bee heat will be embedded into their classroom learning. I will also be sending spelling patterns to be learned for our fortnightly spelling tests.

**Science:** The children will be learning about ‘Space’. We will be looking at historical beliefs about the Earth, the Sun and the stars, as well as modern space exploration and how we think space travel will develop. We will be making models of the planets as well as visiting the Royal Observatory in Greenwich.

**Project:** This term, the children will be learning about film via our “Lights, Camera, Action!” project; a project about telling stories through film. This will link both with literacy and ICT, and the children will be making their own versions of a trailer for a familiar film of their choice. They will be learning about using colour and music to set a mood, and about the use of scripts and props.

**Music:** Year 5 Silver Birch and the KS2 choir will be taking part in the Music for Youth Regional Festival.

**Religious Education:** Our themes this term are Seeds of Unity, a project looking at the use of food in World Religion and Moral Dilemmas, where we will explore how the choices we make affect us, using the Narnia books as a model.

**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 be asked to consolidate their skills to perform sequences. The children will continue to be taught by Mr Graham. Outdoor games will take place every Tuesday and dance/gymnastics will be taught on a Thursday. Your children should bring their P.E kit on a Monday and take it home on a Friday.

**Art/Design Technology:** Art and DT will continue to be incorporated into Project and Science, and we will explore how costumes and props are produced for film.

**Information Communication Technology and Computing:** This term, children will be making a film using Windows Movie Maker. They will learn how to edit, add sound effects and animations to their film.
French: The children will continue to learn French and this is taught for half an hour every week.

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 learned in the week. As previously mentioned, I 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 a Thursday and is due on a Friday. Other homework includes a Maths and English activity. These tasks are set on a Friday and due the following Wednesday.

In addition to this, we will set half an hour of homework on Mathletics and your child should complete these tasks weekly. They should also spend half an hour using the resources on Education City. Your child would also benefit from regularly reading aloud to an adult and should also learn their spellings. Every week, your child should spend at least three hours completing the homework tasks. 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 the class teachers, 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. We recommend you download our school app, if you have not already done so, as all the information you need will be on there. 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; all payments for trips and cooking should be made via the school app.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Pope
Class Teacher

Rachel Martin
Headteacher