Working our way to wisdom; learning our way for life.

Blue John newsletter, Autumn term 1

Welcome to Blue John! I hope you've had a good summer – we have great plans for this term!

This year, we are going to have a student teacher working with us for most of the year – her name is Miss Spence. Please come and introduce yourselves to her. We will also have some support from Miss Marshall and Mrs Solomon on different days. Mrs Dennis and Mrs Jenkin will teach the class on afternoons when I (Mr Stratton) am on other duties.

Keep in contact

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch. There are several ways you can do this: You can reach me by email by replying to this email, or you can email the office and they can pass messages on to me. I'm available on the classroom door at the end of most days, and I'm always keen to hear any messages you think I should know. If you have a message which needs acting on that day, your best course is to phone the school office or to pop in to them. I will aim to email an update and put some photos on our class page of he website each Friday, because I know you'll want to know all about what your children have been up to.

Home learning

As a school, we are going to be looking at our home learning provision over this term, so this may change. Currently, in year 5 we expect children to:

- read at home at least 3 times a week. We have a reading journal for them to record their thoughts in.
- access TTRS for about 10 minutes 3 times a week to practise their times tables. If you've forgotten their login details, let me know.
- Practise their spellings. Our spelling tests will be each Friday, starting after the residential, and we'll also send new spellings each Friday.
- Other homework I send will generally be rehearsal of things we've practised in class already, and it will be on sheets.

Reminders

- The school doors are open from 8:45 until 8:55 each morning. We do start learning immediately on getting into school, so please try to arrive as close to 8:45 as possible.
- Children leave at 3:15 via the year 5 side door.
- Please ensure that your child wears their full school uniform every day, and that they wear PE kit on their PE days. They should wear either their school jumper, cardigan, or a plain black or navy hoodie over their PE kits. Please make sure all their clothing is named.
- Please send your child with a water bottle every day. Please no fizzy drinks.
- Please ensure all clothing is named to help with any lost items.
- Break time snacks should be a healthy option – no crisps or chocolates.
- Children will be allocated a locker on their first day in year 5.

Pencil Cases

Children can bring their own pencil cases in year 5 if they wish. Useful equipment may include:

- Black pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Coloured pencil crayons
- Glue Stick
- Coloured gel pens

Please note, all equipment will be provided. This is not compulsory.

Residential at Standon Bowers

We will be on our residential from **24th – 26th September.** Children who are not joining us will form a mixed class with the year 6s not on the residential and will be doing group learning and project work in school. More details will follow.

Days and dates

Our class PE day is **Wednesday**. We will be learning rugby, so please make sure your child is wearing appropriate PE kit for the field, as we will be outside whenever possible.
We also will be having swimming lessons throughout this term. You will receive a separate letter which will explain the details, but I'll do my best to explain here!
Swimming will be on **Tuesdays**, with the first session on the 9th September. We will then swim every Tuesday **except** 23rd September (residential week) and 21st October (half term). Swimming will then continue through the second half of the Autumn term until our last session of the year on the 2nd December. There will be four more swimming sessions in January, starting January 6th and ending on the 27th.

25th August – A short parents meeting re: Standon Bowers, in the year 5 classroom. If you are booked onto our residential and wish to know more.
24th – 26th September – Standon Bowers residential
8th and 9th October – parents' evening days
16th October – children break up for half term. Please note that children are not in on Friday 17th October as this is a teacher day.

Our learning this term

Maths - Our maths this term will focus on place value before moving onto addition and subtraction. Children will also focus on key arithmetic skills daily, which will focus on ensuring confidence using core knowledge

English – in the first two weeks we will be studying **The Barnabus Project** by the Fan Brothers, where we will explore character and embracing differences. We will then move on to **No Ballet Shoes in Syria** by Catherine Bruton. We will use this test to support our writing – A Life Destroyed.

Art – self portraits in the stye of Roman Britto (first week project), then "Islamic Art and Architecture" later in the term
Geography – people and population
Science – Earth and space
Computing – computing systems and networks
RE – What does it mean if Christians believe God is holy and loving?
PSHE – me and my relationships