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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 5! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the year ahead. Class 5 have settled in well, and, as newly upper KS2 pupils, are already proving themselves to be role models for their peers.

In Year 5, the Core Value we most closely focus on is responsibility. We have begun to consider what this value means to us and how we can take on a greater responsibility to benefit the growth of both ourselves and the school community. I hope that you will encourage your child to take more responsibility at home, to support in this journey of personal development. During our first day back, we generated our Class Agreement for the coming year, reflecting on the rules and expectations both the children and adults must follow to create and maintain a safe, productive learning environment. This activity tied in nicely with our Empowering Learning focus for Term 1, which is Teamwork, as we discussed as a class how to support each other to be the best we can be.

Curriculum information:

Reading:

Reading for pleasure is greatly encouraged at Blackmore and we provide an increasingly wide range of texts and materials to support in developing the children's literacy skills and positive attitudes towards reading. Outside of school, please ensure that your child continues to read to an adult a minimum of 3 times each week and to themselves as regularly as possible. During reading sessions, please try to discuss the story or text together, answering and asking questions relating to characters, the plot, vocabulary or predictions, to improve their comprehension skills and fluency. At the end of each session, whilst the children can take responsibility for writing in the date, book title and page numbers, please ensure that you sign the record book each time they read to you. Diaries will be checked every Monday, with house points awarded to those who meet or exceed the expectation. Library books will be changed every Tuesday and reading books will be changed as needed.

Writing:

In English, we will continue to follow the new Literacy Tree scheme, with our first class novel *Robot Girl* set to open our eyes to the challenges and wonders of Artificial Intelligence. Next, we will explore the non-fiction narrative *Hidden Figures* written by Margot Lee Shetterley, before finishing Autumn term with J.T. Williams' *The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries* and Shaun Tan's *The Lost Thing*. Key writing outcomes include a science fiction narrative, non-chronological report, biography and own version narration. GPS sessions will recap lower KS2 knowledge and begin to introduce more complex grammatical structures including relative clauses and shifts in tense and formality.

Maths:

In maths, we will begin with the topic of place value to ensure we reinforce those integral skills needed to become problem solvers, before deepening our understanding of the 4 operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and fractions.

Science:

This half term in science we will explore the enquiry question *How do materials change?* Through practical and theoretical learning, we will discuss the states of matter, properties of materials and reversible/irreversible changes. In Term 2, we will ask *Are there different types of forces?* This topic will explore mechanisms, balanced forces and contact and non-contact forces including gravity, friction and air resistance.

Other:

Other curriculum information can be found on our Blackmore Class Page under 'Curriculum Overview'. PE will be on Tuesdays this term, along with swimming on Wednesdays. Please refer to the PE section of our uniform policy for reminders about correct PE and swimming attire for reasons of safety and mobility. If for any reason your child is not participating in PE, please inform the office or myself so we are aware of any medical issues.

Homework is an important part of school life, particularly in upper KS2, hence it should be completed to the best of your child's ability. In general, homework will be set on Friday and will be due in the following Wednesday. It will consist of a range of written tasks to compliment and consolidate learning in school. Please encourage your children to attempt and complete the tasks independently before seeking help, however support in checking answers and spotting misconceptions is welcomed. Any concerns or difficulties in completing homework can be discussed with myself or Ms Garrod before the deadline. House points will be awarded for effort and timely submissions, which should provide some motivation to have a go!

We continue to have high expectations of all our children, especially focusing on their resilience to persevere when they encounter challenges. We will also continue to use the Zones of Regulation to support them in recognising and identifying their emotions, a skill which we all need to be confident and successful learners. I hope you find this information useful, however should you have any questions or concerns, please see further details on the school website or do not hesitate to contact me by email, or catch me in the playground during pick-up. I look forward to updating our class page on our exciting learning experiences and would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards,

Miss Strong
Class 5 Teacher



Be the best you can be

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