

Garlinge Primary School and Nursery



Years 5 and 6 Spring Term Newsletter 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and Children in years 5 and 6,

We would like to wish you a warm welcome back to a new year, hoping that 2016 is a successful and healthy year ahead. This newsletter gives a brief outline of the topics for the spring terms 3 and 4, along with additional information which you may find useful.

As Year 5 and 6 teachers, we are looking forward to the coming terms ahead with your child. They will be fast-paced, creative and challenging; hence we are grateful for all the support that you can give your child at home to support our teaching.

How Can You Help Your Child?



Please make sure your child arrives in school by 8:45am when their first activity begins. We ask that you telephone the office if your child is not well enough to come to school at the earliest opportunity. Our morning lessons do begin promptly at 8.45, so prompt arrival does help your child to have a smooth and organised start to their day ready to learn.

We ask your child to continue wearing our school uniform with pride. A full uniform list is available on our school web-site www.garlingeprimary.co.uk or if you are unsure please do speak to your child's class teacher. All items of school uniform should be clearly named. We would also request that children wear black shoes and not trainers to school. Earrings are permitted, but must be small plain studs please.

Please continue to help your child be organised for Physical Education; make sure they always have a PE kit in school (this should consist of a plain white t-shirt, plain dark shorts, plain dark joggers and plimsolls or trainers). We are also more than happy for the children to wear extra layers during the colder months for PE lessons outside. Children with pierced ears will need to remove earrings when taking part in PE lessons; this can be done either at school or at home beforehand. If you are considering having ears pierced, please may we suggest that this is left until the longer summer break please.

Also as a reminder, we are proud to have been awarded 'Healthy School' status—we encourage parents to pack a healthy lunchbox for their child and we discourage: chocolate, sweets or crisps. We also encourage children to bring in a piece of fruit to eat at break times as well as a water-bottle with a sports-cap lid, which can be filled from our water dispensers during the day.



Homework

Homework will be set on a regular basis. This will normally consist of: weekly spellings, a weekly maths piece and a piece of topic or English homework. Times tables should also be learnt and practised daily, alongside reading at home for 10 – 15 mins each day please.

Topics and Learning

All children will work hard on their maths, English and reading skills each morning. The afternoons will consist of topic based activities:

Year 5:

Topic: France
Science: Earth and space
PSHCE: Keeping healthy
Music: Learning to play the Ukulele
RE: Judaism
PE: Gym indoor and outdoor ball skills.

Year 6:

Topic: Our World – map-work
Science: Living things and their habitat
PSHCE: Keeping healthy
Music: Musical notation and appraising
RE: Christianity
PE: Modern dance and outdoor netball/football.

Targets



There are new layered targets for maths, reading, writing and science in each class to encourage the children to continue to move forward and ensure they make the progress expected of them. Children now know their new targets for term 3 and will be constantly working towards achieving these. Please do take the time to discuss these with your child.

Important Dates



These are some of the key dates for the term:

Friday 8th January: Forest School for selected year 5 children commences

Monday 18th January: Maths able day at Chislet School

Tuesday 26th January - 2.25pm: Parent information afternoon on our school maths calculation policy for years 3 – 6

Wednesday 3rd February: Selected year 6 children watching the Lion King at Chatham and Clarendon House

Friday 12th February: End of term 3

Monday 22nd February: Term 4 begins

Tuesday 1st March: Year 6 secondary school places confirmed

Thursday 24th March: School reports sent home and end of term 4.

Clubs

During the coming terms, there will be a variety of both after school and lunchtime clubs available for your child to attend. Please do encourage your child to attend clubs that are of interest to them. Mrs Askew in our school office is keen to keep parents updated with an up-to-date timetable for the coming terms. We are pleased to be continuing the years 5 and 6 homework club on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes as well!

Finally, if you have any questions about your child's education please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs D Pegden – Upper Key Stage Two Department Leader