



The Year Ahead 2022 -2023

Year 5 Heron Class



Our Class

There are twenty-eight children in Year Five, Mrs Daniels and Mrs Morris are the class teachers and we are looking forward to working together to teach your children. Mrs Daniels will be teaching on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Morris will teach the class on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Weddepohl and Mrs Brown (for the first half term) will be joining us in Year Five to support in the delivery of the curriculum. Mrs Morris and Mrs Daniels will meet together each Thursday to ensure continuity across the week by discussing your children and sharing any other information relating to Year Five.

Topics for the year ahead

- Full Steam Ahead!
- Viva Roma!
- What a Wonderful World!

Science

- Earth and Space
- Forces
- Properties and changes of materials
- Living things and their habitats
- Animals including humans

P.E.

P.E. usually takes place on Wednesday afternoons but your child's P.E. kit will need to remain in school all week in case the weather means that we need to change our plans at the last minute. For P.E. children should have a named bag containing the following please:

- Blue, black or white plain shorts with an elastic waistband; a school house or a blue or a white plain short-sleeved t-shirt
- Trainers
- Since we will be going outside for all P.E. lessons this term children will also need a tracksuit (without a hood) to wear over their t-shirt and shorts when it is cold.

For Health & Safety reasons, children should remember to bring hair ties for long (below shoulder length) hair. Ideally no jewellery should be worn in school and earrings must be removed for PE.

As a school, we traditionally participate in a wide range of sporting activities and very much hope that this will be the case once again this year. When events are able to go ahead your child may be asked to represent the School in a sports team, all necessary details and arrangements will be provided nearer the time.

Languages

After a successful year learning Mandarin in Year Four, the language that we will focus on in Year Five will be Italian. We will concentrate on the basics such as greetings, colours, numbers and everyday classroom language. Children will also learn some geographical and historical information about Italy, as well as something about Italian customs and celebrations. Languages throughout the school will be taught through songs and games, the whole point is to have fun whilst learning.

Tackling Tables

In Year Five we work on our 'Tackling Tables' every week with our card packs and our weekly quiz. Any practice which you are able to do at home with your home packs would reinforce our learning as we are finding it is making a huge difference to the children's understanding of multiplication and division and their speed of recall of key facts. Tackling Tables certificates are presented in our Friday Celebration Assembly each week.

School visits, trips and other events

School trips and visitors into school provide an excellent chance for children to enrich their learning. We are delighted to say that we are once again able to offer Year Five the opportunity to spend time away from home on a residential trip to Grafham Water from 29th to 31st March 2023 inclusive. More details about this will follow in a separate letter nearer the time.

Classroom organisation

Over the year, children will work in a variety of different groups depending on the subject and the activity. A mixture of whole class, group, paired and individual work is incorporated into our teaching. The children will be working in ability groups, mixed ability groups and in friendship groups at different times during the week.

Behaviour and rewards

We expect the highest standards of behaviour in year five and have rewards in place to encourage this and recognise when it has been achieved by the children. As well as verbal feedback we will be using house points to reward both individual and group effort and achievement, these house points will be totalled at the end of every week and added to whole school totals which will be announced in assembly each week. In the Friday Celebration Assembly, we will also be selecting children to receive merit certificates in recognition of excellent work, effort or behaviour.

To reward whole class excellence we will be using ten 'Golden Stars'. Golden Stars will be given out when the *whole class* has achieved a high standard in their work or in their behaviour. The stars are displayed in the classroom, and when a class has earned ten of them they will receive a whole class reward which will be negotiated with the children. Past treats include extra playtime, or watching a DVD. Another way to earn gold stars is through the 'Secret Student' process. One student is selected each day and their name is shared with the adults in class on that day. All adults (inconspicuously) watch this named child throughout the day to check on their effort and behaviour. If they have behaved appropriately and given their best throughout the day then they are given a tally mark on the chart. Ten tallies and you can swap them for a gold star.

In recognition of the vital importance of every child's self-esteem we will be creating 'Positivity Pots' for each person. These will be used to raise self-esteem and aim to serve as a welcome distraction if any moments of anxiety occur for whatever reason during the school year.

On the rare occasion when behaviour is not as we would expect we will deal with this in line with our school behaviour policy which is available on the school website.

Equipment

Please send your child into school with a named, full water bottle every day. Children are provided with all the necessary equipment for classroom activities. There is no need for you to provide your child with pens, pencils etc. If any do come into school they will be stored in your child's drawer and will only come out after a direct request from an adult – otherwise we find we can end up with no space left to work on the table but a huge selection of beautiful pens and colouring pencils! Please make sure that your child comes to school with a cardigan or sweatshirt and a waterproof coat. The weather can be very changeable in the Autumn Term and we will be going outside as much as possible and want your child to be warm and dry on these occasions.

Helping your child at home

Daily Reading: Please encourage your child to read every night and try to share and talk about their books. This is important for fluent readers as well as those who may need support reading. Your child would benefit from reading a variety of different types of fiction and non-fiction texts, e.g. narratives, poems, instructions, recipes, newspapers, catalogues and comics.

Children will bring home a book they have chosen in school in a named reading folder that needs to come into school every day and be placed in drawers. In addition, they have been given a new purple reading record. This includes a middle section that has some top tips for supporting reading at home and it also gives you more information about some of the spelling and grammar expectations for Year Five.

Weekly Homework:

There will be Mathematics set every week on a Friday, due for the following Friday, and also Tackling Tables practice. Tackling Tables tests will take place every Friday.

Spellings: Weekly spelling practice will be set on Spelling Frame every Monday to complete at home throughout the week. Progress with learning these words will take place the following Monday in the form of a quick quiz.

Parent Consultation Dates

There are regular timetabled meetings with parents throughout the school year, please see dates below. More details will follow regarding the organisation of these:-

<u>Tuesday 18th October</u> <u>and</u> <u>Thursday 20th October</u>	Individual meeting after school to discuss settling in/exchange of information (10mins).
<u>March – dates tbc</u>	Consultation to discuss progress. (10 mins)
<u>July</u>	End of year written reports

Parental Help

Parental help is much appreciated. If you would like to help us in Year 5 please get in touch.

Communication

As you will be aware, all communication is to be through the office at the following email address: - office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Please be aware that staff will not be able to reply immediately as they will be in class teaching but will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Please ensure that you report absences (planned or otherwise) to the office by telephone.

Please read 'The Star' every week to keep up-to-date with general school news and information specific to Year 5. Important information is generally shared by Parentmail so please make sure you are signed up and check this regularly.

The school website is full of useful information. It can be found here www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk. We have a Year 5 class page where we post information about the work we have been doing in class, along with photos of lessons, school projects and special events, a class timetable and news about our curriculum themes. This class page will be updated with curriculum information throughout the year.

We are really looking forward to working with you to make this year a happy and positive one for your child.

With very best wishes,
Jo Daniels, Debbie Morris, Kathryn Weddepohl and Karen Brown

