

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our new school year! I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break. This year, the classes will be named after German rivers and the Year 5/6 class will be called Danube Class. During our first week, we shall be learning about the Danube through various cross-curricular activities and focusing on building our new Y5/6 friendships through focused PSHE lessons and team building games.

**Curriculum:** This half term, our history driven topic is, 'Maafa', which teaches children about Africa past and present and the development of the slave trade. It also explores Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade, the causes and consequences of the European colonisation of Africa and the worldwide communities that make up the African diaspora. The topic will continue in the second half term when we shall explore the abolition of slavery, The Windrush generation, the Race Relations act and the impact on the lives of black people in Britain today (please see curriculum map).

**Reading:** Your child will continue to read for information and purpose across the curriculum, study novels and authors, take part in whole class and small group comprehension sessions and enjoy discussing text within literature circles.



Throughout each class novel study, your child will bring home set reading and a task to complete every Thursday.

Your child is expected to bring the completed task into school on the next day (Friday) to support his/her role within the following day's literature circle. I really do appreciate your support with this. In addition, your child is expected to continue to read their own independent reading books and keep a record of reading in his/her reading diary. We will visit the school library each Wednesday, when your child will be given the opportunity to borrow and return books.

**Supporting your child at home:** Every Tuesday, your child will be given homework in a homework folder to support learning in class. Please ensure your child brings the folder, with homework completed, back to school each Monday. The weekly 'spelling bee' will take place on Fridays and will include a range of words that your child will be expected to be able to spell by the end of Key Stage 2. The weekly spelling list will be in your child's homework folder.

The homework 'take away' suggestions are to develop your child's interest in subjects focused on throughout the term. Your child may choose any of the homework options from the homework take away menu which can be presented to the class during our homework celebration on Friday afternoons. It is generally expected that your child completes at least two homework activities throughout the Autumn Term (Sept-Dec).



Your child also has access to Doodle Maths, Spelling, English and Times Tables as well as TT Rockstars. Daily time spent on these Apps at home will most definitely support your child in achieving curriculum objectives English and maths.

**PE:** This term, PE will take place in the hall each Monday afternoon. Your child will need to bring a named PE kit consisting of a red T-shirt, black shorts and trainers/pumps to school on this day each week. **Kits should remain in school all week to support timetable changes.**

**Swimming:** Each year we take the children swimming one term in three. This year KS2 will swim in Autumn term on Wednesdays. Further information will follow about when the programme will start.

**Spaced Learning:** In Y5/6 we focus on building memory muscle, by using a spaced learning approach. This helps children to understand the importance of remembering key facts and learn how their brains work most effectively in order to retrieve and recall information learnt. During lessons, the children are given time to write/draw a 'hook for learning' in their books before then being asked to retrieve the information (using only memory) later on in the day, day 1, 7, 31 and 3 months. This approach empowers children to talk confidently and knowledgeably about topics and reinforces their own role in learning.

If you have any questions or would like to contact me, please send a message on Seesaw or catch me at the school gate once the children are dismissed. Here's to an exciting Autumn term!

Kind regards,  
Mrs Norman