



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 5! We hope the children have settled well into their new classes. We have a jam-packed term planned and our areas of study are shown on the topic web.

### Curriculum

In Year 5, the children study a wide range of topics, and this term, we will begin with a journey 'To Infinity and Beyond'. We also have some exciting DT to look forward to linked to our Science topic of Earth and Space - making space buggies! In computing we will be learning all about online safety. Our excellent English units have been enhanced by making the learning as fun as possible with the use of exciting novels and short films. We will still be focussing on a variety of learning skills and learning behaviours, such as collaboration and independence and creativity, which will be at the heart of our curriculum. To complement our first topic, we will be visiting Winchester Science Centre this half term.

### Home Learning

We are sure that most of you are familiar with our Home Learning strategy. The purpose of Home Learning at Pirbright is to ensure that pupils have the necessary skills to reach their potential in school. We want to guarantee that pupils all the way through the school practise their reading, mental arithmetic, rapid recall of Maths facts and spellings – aiming for at least three times a week, every week. These are classed as Essential Learning.

We also want to continue to foster the love of learning that our pupils have and so you will find exciting and motivating activities for pupils to engage in, these are classed as 'optional' for parents (not pupils) allowing parents to manage their children's time effectively. If you have a family gathering over the weekend and fitting in extra activities is going to be tricky, then you can choose to leave these activities until a more convenient time, if you have a child that has a particularly busy schedule outside of school, perhaps they swim or train regularly, then again you can make the decision as to how and when these tasks can be completed and which ones to tackle.

Year 5 children will receive their home learning sheets every **Friday** (also uploaded onto the Year 5 page on the school website) which need to be returned to school by the following **Thursday**. As well as home learning tasks they will also contain weekly spelling lists, key information to remember (including dates), a learning synopsis and a space for you to add any comments. Please do ensure Home Learning sheets are returned so that we can keep you informed about spelling test results and read any comments you have made. The basic home learning requirement is for each child to read at least three times a week, practise their spellings, and work on their maths skills.

### Reading

We are continuing to use the online reading record, BoomReader. Every child has a BoomReader log in (details of which have already been sent home) which should be used to record every time they read either to themselves or to an adult. Although, children may appear to be becoming far more confident readers at this age it is still important to read with them on a regular basis, to discuss their reading and to support them to ensure they have fully understood the language and ideas used by the author. Please ensure that your child brings their current reading book to school every day as we will have regular opportunities throughout the week for reading.

### Spellings

We will be using the 'Spelling Shed' in year 5 this year. The children will receive their spellings on a Friday; these will usually be based on the spelling rule we have been learning in school, and will be tested on the following Thursday. Using the Spelling Shed, children are able to access games they can play to help them to learn the spellings. All children have been provided with login details. To avoid having to purchase the App, Spelling Shed Login can be accessed via the internet.

### Maths Skills

We actively encourage practical application of maths skills – cooking, building, shopping, etc. Mathematics is a great tool to help embed maths knowledge too, as is TTRS. Your child has login details for both of these.

Where possible, home learning which is created at home can be sent into school either physically, or via our class email addresses to share with the class. The class email addresses are: [5GJ@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:5GJ@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk) and [5SF@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:5SF@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk)

## **PE**

We ask that PE kits are in school all week, so that we are able to be flexible with our timetable, especially as we head into winter. As the weather gets colder, children may wish to wear tracksuit trousers or leggings – which should be plain and dark in colour. Earrings cannot be worn for PE so you may like to take them out in the morning or make sure your child can remove them independently.

### **Pencil Cases**

To help children be successful, it is really important that they attend school each day with the correct equipment for learning. In Year 5, they are expected to have their own small pencil case filled with essential items, including a black handwriting pen, a whiteboard pen, HB pencils, a ruler and a rubber. (Children are welcome to bring a second pencil case with colouring pencils, however, this should remain in their bag or tray until needed). Although we are able to supply some of these items, we find that our stocks run out very quickly. If you are able to help us in any way with school supplies, we would be very grateful.

Most needed equipment includes:

- Black handwriting pens (not biro)
- Whiteboard pens
- Pritt sticks
- Paint brushes
- Paint palettes

We appreciate your support throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time during the year if you have any queries.

Thank you,

The Year 5 Team