



Friday 18th September 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 5!

We hope the children have settled happily into Year 5 and are enjoying the exciting start to the year. They have already made a fantastic start, and we are looking forward to a fun-filled term of learning, exploration and discovery together.

We have lots of exciting learning planned between now and Christmas. Our topic web gives an overview of what we will be learning, while this letter provides some key information about the year ahead, including helpful reminders from our Year 5 'Meet the Teacher' session.

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 develop the necessary skills to reach their full potential in school.

We want to ensure that pupils throughout 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. You will therefore find exciting and motivating activities for pupils to engage with. 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, you can choose to leave these activities until a more convenient time. Similarly, if your child has a particularly busy schedule outside of school, perhaps because they swim or train regularly, you can decide how and when these tasks are completed and which ones to tackle.

Year 5 children will receive their Home Learning sheets every **Friday**, which need to be returned to school by the following **Thursday**. As well as Home Learning tasks, the sheets will contain weekly spelling lists, key information to remember (including important dates) and a synopsis of the week's learning.

Please ensure that Home Learning sheets are returned so that we can keep you informed about spelling test results.

The basic Home Learning requirement is for each child to:

- Read at least three times a week.
- Practise their spellings.
- Work on their Maths skills.

Reading

We are continuing to use the online reading record, **BoomReader**. Every child has a BoomReader login (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 regularly, discuss their reading and support them in ensuring 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 **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 the following Thursday.

Using Spelling Shed, children are able to access games that will help them learn and practise their spellings. All children have been provided with login details.

To avoid having to purchase the app, Spelling Shed can be accessed via the internet.

Maths Skills

We actively encourage the practical application of Maths skills through everyday activities such as cooking, building and shopping.

Mathletics is a great tool to help embed Maths knowledge, as is **TTRS**. Your child has login details for both of these.

Where possible, Home Learning created at home can be sent into school, either physically or via our class email addresses, so that we can share and celebrate it with the class.

The class email addresses are:

5RG@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk
5SD@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk

PE

We ask that PE kits are kept in school throughout the 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 a tracksuit, which should be plain and dark in colour. Earrings cannot be worn for PE, so you may like to remove them in the morning or ensure that 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, children are expected to have their own small pencil case filled with essential items, including:

- A black pen

- HB pencils
- A whiteboard pen
- A glue stick
- A ruler
- A rubber
- A purple pen

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.

Our most-needed equipment includes:

- Whiteboard pens
- Whiteboard rubbers
- Pritt sticks
- Paintbrushes
- Paint palettes

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

Thank you,

The Year 5 Team