

Welcome to Hawks Class

Year 5 and 6

September 2023



As your child's class teacher, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all.

This letter is designed to give you a brief overview of your child's school life over the coming year in terms of our expectations, as well as providing you some insight into the topics we intend to cover. We are here for you so do please come and see us if you ever have any concerns, questions or suggestions.

Mrs K Wilson

General

If you would like to contact us for any reason, please use the school admin email and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We will also be available for quick messages at the end of the school day. There are two formal parents' evenings during the year. The first ones will be held the week beginning 16th October; more details will follow nearer the time. We will open the gate at 8.40 am each morning and call the register at 8:50am each morning and your child will need to be in the classroom promptly then to ensure they do not miss any announcements or learning time.

You will be aware that we are a 'uniform school' and the wearing of uniform is actively encouraged, fostering pride in the school. Children should be encouraged to be always smart and presentable and should wear sensible black shoes (not trainers). Children may come to school on Thursday and Friday in their PE kit. Please see our website under the 'Parents' tab for more information about uniform.

English

English is taught daily but there will also be additional sessions focusing on spelling, grammar, comprehension and handwriting. The children will explore a wide range of text types to link their writing to during the year and their reading and writing skills will be developed and extended. We teach English through an approach where children work towards a shared writing goal but with different starting points depending on their understanding. This helps us ensure time is not wasted by repeating aspects that children already know how to do. The children will be expected to write independently, editing and improving their writing as part of the process.

The children will also undertake a weekly reading comprehension exercise. It is beyond doubt that the most beneficial way of helping your child make progress is to regularly support their reading at home, both hearing them read and being read to. We would really appreciate your support with this. If your child is reluctant to read at home or if you want support, please come, and see us.

New spellings will be introduced in class each week. These will be made up of words from the statutory Year 5/6 list and a new spelling rule. There will be an opportunity to practise these spelling each week on Spelling Frame, helping the children to embed their learning.

Maths

Maths is also taught daily. Our aim is to ensure that the children are confident handling numbers and completing calculations and that they progress only when their understanding is completely secure. If the formal strategies they are using are unfamiliar, or you would like strategies clarified, please don't hesitate to see me.

In Maths, we use the White Rose Scheme as a basis and the children will develop their skills through a mixture of activities, including formal written lessons, investigations, practical activities, and games. Every week they will also complete times tables tests- continued practice of the multiplication tables at home would be very much appreciated. They have a login for Times Tables Rockstars to support their progress.

Topic Work

In our non-core curriculum this year, we will be looking at:

- The impact of World War 2 on Plymouth
- Europe in our Geography work
- The British Empire and the impact on the world
- Globalisation
- Each topic will have a Geography or History focus, as well as links to taught computing, Science, RE, PSHE, PE, Music, Art and/or D.T.

Children will explore a question linked to their topic to help them build and develop their knowledge.

P.E. & Kit

PE will be held on Thursday and Friday this term will focus on invasion games. Children need to wear navy shorts and a pale blue/white polo shirt or tracksuit bottoms and tops in colder weather. They also need to wear trainers. **PE kits should be worn to school on the days that PE is timetabled.** All kit should be clearly named please. Please note, no jewellery may be worn during P.E. sessions. We have a duty to provide physical education to our children and you will be contacted by the school if your child regularly does not have their kit.

Breakfast/ After School Club

We offer breakfast club every day from 8am and early birds can arrive from 8.30am. Afterschool Club runs every day between 3.20 – 5.30pm.

Please contact the school office should you wish to book a session/s

Collective Worship

We hold Collective Worship every day and use this time to explore our school values. Our Friday Collective Worship focuses on celebrating achievements and children are welcome to bring in awards they have gained outside school to share with everyone. Please also email the office and let us know if your child has demonstrated the current school value at home and we will celebrate this too.

Home Learning

We would like the children to focus on reading daily, when possible, for between 20 – 30 minutes. The benefits of reading have been found to improve spelling, comprehension and language development which is why this is a key priority for our school. Children will also have access to several different platforms including Times Table Rock stars and Spelling Frame where they can access games and develop their spelling and number skills. We will be setting a weekly word in our newsletter on a Friday which will be built on through the week in class, enabling pupils to demonstrate their understanding of new vocabulary.

Information

A link to our weekly newsletters is sent home by email and is contains important, up to date information and upcoming dates and events as well as photos and a short description of what the children have been learning that week. **Please make sure you check it weekly.** If you need to contact a teacher directly, please email the admin address admindiptford@thelink.academy and your message will be forwarded to the relevant teacher. We are striving to reduce our “paper footprint” and moving towards sending all information electronically. If you do need a paper copy of any specific letters, please drop into the office

We hope that this letter provides all of the information you need however please do ask if you have any particular questions. We are looking forward have a really exciting year ahead and we are really looking forward to sharing it with your children and yourselves.