

Primrose Hill Primary School

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10th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you have all had a restful break and enjoyed your holiday. The children have made an excellent start to the term and are now settled back into the Year 5 routines and expectations of learning. This letter will outline some of the areas of learning this term and what you can do to help at home.

Our topic for this half term is **Save the World**. We will be looking at how our planet is changing as a result of human activity, with a focus on plastic pollution and the impact on animals and the natural environment. Our learning this half term will lead into our STEAM project after half term, which will conclude with our STEAM exhibition just before Easter. We will also be working with Kate Hopewell this half term on an exciting drama project linked to 'The Princess Blankets', which we will be studying in English. This will lead into a performance for our class assemblies at the end of this half term (see below for key dates).

- Reading at home is vital this year and children will have the opportunity to take home books on a regular basis. To aid this, we will have the Year 5 Reading Challenge and visit the **school library** once or twice a week. Woodpeckers will visit on Friday and Blackbirds will visit on Thursday.
- We will be continuing with the Reading Challenge in Year 5 this term. The children's motivation and excitement around the challenge last term was brilliant - let's keep it up! It is really important that the children are reading their book for the agreed amount of time each night and bringing it into school every day to discuss with their group.
- Maths groups have been working well and there has been some movement amongst the groups to even out numbers and group dynamics. This fluidity will continue throughout the rest of the year.
- Our Integrated Curriculum in Year 5 has been very successful so far this year. The children have adapted to the routine and understand the expectations. We had several visitors last term who were very impressed with the children's independence and the depth of their learning. Please speak to your child and their class teacher if you have any questions.
- We shall continue to hand home learning out each week on Friday and while non-compulsory it is strenuously encouraged. It will be due in the following Thursday. There will be Maths, Spelling, English and a Topic task. The home learning sheet will be printed and posted on the Google Classroom. All the children have home learning books but they can also share work with their teacher on the Google Classroom or their Google Drive.
- We will place news items on the school website to keep you informed about learning taking place in Year 5 and across the school. Please visit the school website regularly. Also on the website you will find a calendar of events across the term. This is regularly updated so please use this in addition to the Calendar pages attached. www.primrosehill.camden.sch.uk
- PE and Music takes place every Wednesday and this term we will also have an extra PE session on Friday afternoon. It is vital children wear their PE uniforms on Wednesdays and wear trainers on Fridays. The P.E kit is the school sweatshirt and polo shirt and plain black tracksuit bottoms (no stripes or logos). **From the week beginning 4th February, Year 5 PE and music will change to Wednesday morning.**

- We will be starting swimming on Friday mornings after half term. We will be in touch closer to the time with further details and arrangements.
- School starts at 8:55am and finishes at 3:30pm. Children are welcome to join us in class for soft start from 8:45am. At Primrose Hill, ensuring high attendance and punctuality for all is a priority. We want to make sure that all children receive a full-time education that will maximise all learning opportunities. As you will know, regular school attendance means that children make better academic progress and have improved well-being. We have a legal duty to ensure that all children are attending school each day. **Our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) has given the following guide for expected attendance:**

100%	Perfect -the best they can possibly be!
98 - 99%	Excellent
95 - 97%	Good
90 -94%	Needs to improve and will be monitored closely within school
89% or less	Poor - this will lead to a referral to the EWO, a subsequent meeting and potential legal action from the local authority.

- Please ensure that your child does not come to school with toys, sweets, chewing gum or jewellery. **These items are not allowed.**
- If it is necessary for your child to have a mobile phone for their journey to or from school they should take it to the school office for safe keeping during the school day. The phones should be in the office by the start of the school day at 8:45am and can be picked up at 3:30pm. If children are found to have a mobile phone with them during the school day they will be confiscated.
- Children must line up in the playground at the end of the day and may only be collected from the line by an adult, unless they have written permission to leave on their own, which must be handed into the office. **If an adult is collecting your child who does not usually do so then please inform the office in advance as we cannot let any child leave without permission.**

Key Dates

Trip to the Francis Crick Institute

- Woodpeckers - Thursday 17th January,
- Blackbirds - Friday 18th January

Class Assemblies

- Woodpeckers - 2:45pm on Thursday 7th February
- Blackbirds - 2:45pm on Friday 8th February

Curiosity Week - week commencing 25th February

Writing Workshop - Wed 27th Feb at 2:45pm

STEAM Exhibition - Tuesday 2nd April at 2:45pm

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting half term with you and your children. If you have any concerns or queries please feel free to make an appointment with us to discuss them. We will also be available in the playground on **Tuesdays at 3:15pm** if you have any concerns or questions.

Many thanks,

Danielle, Sophie and Laura
The Year 5 Team