



April 2017

Dear parent/carer

We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

A reminder that high standards are set in all areas, especially behaviour, academic work and appearance, with consideration for others being a key element in our Church School. Uniform is an important aspect of gaining a sense of pride and we do ask parents to ensure that all pupils are correctly attired for school and that children have appropriate PE kit in school that is available all week.

This term, Year 5 will be following units of work on the themes of Ancient Greece and Berkhamsted: a local study.

In History, we'll be:

- Finding out about aspects of the past from a range of sources
- Investigating Ancient Greece, Greek life, their achievements and influence on the western world
- Developing a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of world history.

In Geography, we'll be:

- Comparing similarities and differences between localities
- Learning about physical and human features in a village
- Investigating how people affect the environment.

Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, and working independently and in groups. We will be checking to see how well your child has learned through directed activities and asking children to explain their work.

Last term, a revised approach to teaching spelling skills was introduced in Year 3. Recent research suggests that best practice in the teaching of spelling should be a 'little and often' approach, with spelling taught and practised several times each week. This is a similar approach to that used in the teaching of phonic skills, is recommended by Herts for Learning (the school improvement service for Hertfordshire County Council) and has proved highly successful in other schools. Lesson teaching will focus on the spelling patterns and on the practice of spelling using a range of word games. Whilst we shall continue to give a test of spelling words, there will be only five or six example words to be practised. Each week there will be a dictation test to assess children's learning of these spelling words.

This term, Year 5 will be taking part in an Ancient Greek day run by the Year 5 Team. The date of this will be confirmed nearer the time. Children will dress up and take part in several fun activities. We are also hoping for some good weather to enable us to visit Berkhamsted Castle.

Following on from 5AP's swimming lessons, 5SW will be having 8 weeks of swimming lessons as part of the PE programme of study. This will take place at Sportspace on Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure your child has the correct kit for these days.

We look forward to Sports Day on Thursday 15 June (reserve day Friday 16 June).

You will receive your child's annual report in July and it will be followed by an opportunity to discuss this with the class teacher.



The
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Should you have any concerns or wish to discuss any particular needs, please do not hesitate to contact us through the office or via your child's contact book.

Yours sincerely

Miss Griffin 5HG Miss Walker 5SW Mr Phelan 5AP