

Dear children, parents and carers,

Welcome back! I really hope you all had a fantastic summer holiday and the children feel refreshed and ready for an exciting in Class 5.

Mrs Lang (Monday-Thursday), Mrs Reed (all week) and Mrs Hunt (Wednesday) are our wonderful class Teaching Assistants. Mr Tanner will be teaching Class 5's PE on Monday afternoons so please ensure your child comes to school in PE kit (navy blue shorts/skorts, joggers and house colour top only please).

This term our value is 'thankfulness' and after the October half term 'trust'. Worship time in school will focus on this. We will be starting the academic year with a one week, whole-school topic based on the book 'Varmints' and linking this to how we treat others and celebrate differences.

In English this term, we will be reading the books *When we were warriors* and *Shackleton's Adventure*. We will be writing persuasive letters, setting descriptions, diaries, stories and poetry. This term, we will carefully be looking at sentence structure and use of punctuation within our writing to make it as engaging and exciting as possible. This will include: basic punctuation, fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, sentence structures, relative embedded clauses and parenthesis.

In maths we will be covering number and place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and the first part of fractions.

The class overview of learning will be displayed on the class webpage: <http://www.akps.org.uk/classes/class-5/>

There will be a class stay and share session on Thursday 12th November at 2.45pm giving you a chance to look at your child's books and talk about the things they are learning together before the autumn term parents' evenings.

Year 5's class assembly will take place on Tuesday 24th November at 9 am.

Home Learning

Homework this year will focus on reading and maths. Children need to spend between 5-10 minutes x 5 a week on Doodle maths. The aim for children is to be in the green zone on the little Doodle petrol gauge on screen. Assignments will also be set on Doodle for homework. Doing these would be part of their daily Doodle time and would contribute to them keeping their Doodle gauge in the green. The children's passwords and usernames are in their reading records. Please note that Doodle is a bespoke learning platform which learns at your child's speed and is tailored to their needs based on the Baseline assessments carried out in class. We would encourage the children Doodle independently if at all possible.

Our expectation is that children read each day for at least 15 minutes. Children can read independently or to an adult daily. We expect every child to record their daily reading, even if it's just a short note, so that we can keep track of their progress. Please support your child by reminding them to complete this task each day - thank you.

Time tables

Children are encouraged to use TTRS for practicing their times tables every day where possible for 5 minutes. Garage is useful to test children on times tables the algorithm has deemed need practice. Regular practice keeps speed and retention of answers quick and gives children a strong basis to use in their maths lessons. Log ins will remain the same as last year but if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Spellings

The children will continue to practise spelling rules in school and build them into their writing (as per the overview and in line with the National Curriculum) but will not bring home spellings to practise for weekly tests as they did previously. We are looking to try and apply their spelling into their free writing rather than just through set weekly tests and really focus on the rules. There will be spelling tests in school based on these rules but they will not be set weekly and we will analyse the rules they need to work on. You can still support with this at home as the children have access to Doodle spellings.

Affordability

This year's main trip for Year 5 is our 3-day residential to Viney Hill in the Forest of Dean in Term 6. The cost will be in the region of £200 for 3 days food, accommodation and a range of amazing adventure activities

We will have an exact idea of cost once we have provisionally booked the activities and a letter for this will go out later this year with a deposit request.

General dates and reminders

PE is on Monday afternoon.

Class stay and share session on Thursday 12th November at 2.45pm

Year 5 class assembly will be taking place on Tuesday 24th November at 9 am.

Forest School sessions:

Wednesday 9th September, Tuesday 6th October and Wednesday 11th November.

Please add these dates to your calendar so your child remembers their kit! ☺

Thank you again for all your support and here's to a brilliant 2026-2027!

Miss Thomas