



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Year 5 Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 5 at Connaught Junior School! We do hope you all had a relaxing summer and are looking forward to the new school year getting underway. We are so excited to welcome your children back into school and restore a bit of normality and routine. All the Year 5 teachers are keen to start teaching your children, help them to settle in to their new classes and face the new challenges of Year 5. Here is the first of our curriculum letters which comes out every half term accompanied by a theme overview. As you know, this is designed to give you some information regarding the key themes we will be covering and some more detail on the topic for the term ahead. We are trialing a new format in Year 5 so would welcome any feedback you have.

Obviously, there are lots of changes in school for this first half term and our primary concern is to help all the children readjust to being back in the classroom. We will be carefully explaining all the new rules and monitoring the wellbeing of all. Our primary concern is the safety and mental health of your children, so we will be easing them back into full learning. For this first half term, we will be operating a Recovery Curriculum, alongside normal lessons, to help with this process. This includes lessons on: Positivity, Belonging, Friendships, Worries, Grief and the Year Ahead. Please be reassured that we will teach these lessons sensitively and to give the children an outlet to talk about their feelings and how to deal with them. If you are at all concerned or would like to see what we are planning to teach, please contact your child's class teacher who will be more than happy to talk you through it.

We will need to assess the children at some point during this first half term but we will be waiting until they are settled back into their routine. We need to assess them to work out where there are knowledge gaps and working hard to close these gaps as soon as possible. If necessary, we will recap some of the learning from Year 4.

If at any point during this half term, you feel that your child is struggling to readjust to being back in school or finding the experience overwhelming, please get in touch with us. We will do everything we can to support all our families with the return to full time learning. We are all still living in somewhat uncertain times and it is natural to be worried. Please get in touch if you feel you need some extra support.

#### Curriculum

Our history topic this term is *Groovy Greeks* and in the next few weeks the children will be experiencing a range of new and exciting learning opportunities. As part of our history topic we will be **sequencing historical periods**, becoming even more confident with **time based terminology, using dates and terms with increasing accuracy** and **asking a range of questions** about the past.

In English, we will be studying **Myths and Legends** culminating in writing our own Greek Myth using Pandora's Box as inspiration. Later in the term we will be creating our own Visitor Guides about Greece using **persuasive writing** techniques to encourage people to visit. All of these units are tied into our Groovy Greeks topic, making the children's learning more engaging and relevant.

During the Autumn term the children will also be conducting their next **class talk** on the subject of **'Explain a hobby you have that will tell us something about your personality.'** As you know this is designed to help develop the children's speaking and listening skills and importantly gives them a chance to practise organising their thoughts. We will be sending out more information about this nearer the time.

In Maths, the children will be covering **Number and Place value, Addition and Subtraction** and **Statistics**. We will be regularly practising core arithmetic skills, at the start of each day and at the start of each Maths lesson, to build up the children's confidence and fluency. The children will receive weekly Maths homework so they can practise more of their arithmetic skills. It is also important for the children to become fluent with all of their timestables so please practise these at home each day.

In Geography, we will be looking at the **different types of settlements** in Ancient Greece. We will also be **comparing a region of the UK with a region of Europe** and **using maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping** to locate countries and describe features.

#### PE

This has been timetabled for **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. On PE days, children are allowed to come into school in their PE kits. During the colder weather the children will need a school tracksuit as, where possible, PE will be held outside and the journey to and from school might be colder. Please note that earrings must not be worn for PE and the children should be able to remove these themselves. Sometimes PE kit does get lost, so please make sure your child's belongings are all named.

#### Homework and Homework Diary

As you know, our approach to homework at Connaught has been designed to give parents and guardians the flexibility to manage how and when they fit homework into their family life.

All homework will be **set on Monday** and needs to be **completed by the following Monday**. Each week the children will be required to do the following homework tasks:

- **Read at least 5 times a week.** This needs to be recorded on the white pages adjacent to the diary section in the homework diary. Each week there will be a different focus and your child needs to record their response in their diary.
- **Talk homework.** This will be linked to the theme of the week.
- **Arithmetic Maths sheet.** This will be set to reflect the Maths learning from the previous week. The aim here is to give children time to practise their core skills.
- **Practise weekly timestables and spellings.** Children will be tested on Friday. It is recommended that these are practised daily.

#### And finally...

If you have any questions or concerns, then please do get in touch. Please email us directly on our class email addresses and we will aim to respond within 48 hours. Alternatively, you can phone or email the school office. At this time, it is not possible for parents to come onto the school site for meetings. We always aim to foster positive relationships with our parents so if you have a question about anything, approaching us directly is the best way forward to ensure that you get the most accurate information possible.

Kind regards,

Miss Whiting

Miss Blight

Miss Daulby

Mr Tilly