

September 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you all had a relaxing summer and enjoyed some lovely weather. It has been lovely catching some of you at the door this week. As we settle back into the school routine, I want to reassure you that I am here to support your children every step of the way, especially if they are feeling a little nervous. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity as they return to the classroom and I hope they are looking forward to a fun-packed year ahead!

I am confident this is going to be an exciting and successful year for everyone. Please feel free to catch me at the door if you ever need to chat – I am always happy to connect and discuss how we can best support your child. Admirals are extremely lucky to be taught by Mrs Gibbs, on a Friday, and we are both confident that the children will thrive and flourish with our partnership!

A quick reminder: we'll be holding a 'Meet the Teacher' session for Year 5 at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9th in the Admirals' classroom. I look forward to meeting many of you there!

### **Autumn Term Learning**

In **English**, in the Autumn Term, we will be exploring different narrative genres including descriptive writing, non-chronological reports, poetry and biographies. Our first texts will introduce the children to the world of mythical creatures; they will be able to design their own mythical beast and write a report about it including different writing techniques, including: formal tone, descriptive and ambitious vocabulary, varied sentence structures, captions and many more.

In **maths**, we will start with place value: understanding that the value of a digit is determined by its place in a number. This will include the concept of rounding and understanding decimal notation. From there, we will move onto negative numbers and roman numerals before studying mental and formal methods of calculating for all four operations.

In **science** this term, we will begin by learning about living things and their habitats. During this unit of work, we will revisit how different animals are classified. We will study the life cycles of different animals and will compare two of these for similarities and differences. We will also study famous scientists who link to this learning including Jane Goodall and David Attenborough. We will explore their work and how this has contributed to our understanding of living things and their habitats today. Learning from this topic will be reinforced with a trip to the Natural History Museum in Tring.

For our **history** this term, we will be studying The Maya. Our key question will be 'Who were the Ancient Maya and how did they live?' The children will look at the geographical features of

where the Maya live and how this affects the way they created a thriving civilisation. We will delve into their world and discover their greatest discoveries including the number and calendar systems. We will read diary extracts from explorers, who travelled the depths of the Mayan jungles to reach astonishing temples, and study secondary resources to help us find out more about the way in which they thrived.

Moving into Autumn 2, our **geography** unit will be learning all about volcanoes. We will study how they are formed and how they can affect the lives of locals living in close proximity to them. We will even be making our own eruptions!

**RE** lessons this term are focused initially on Sikhi and we will explore the question: How far would a Sikh go for their religion? We will be looking at how many Sikhs demonstrate commitment and what core beliefs make up the basis of this religion. After half term, our time will then be spent investigating whether Christmas celebrations and traditions help Christians to understand who Jesus was and why he was born.

In **computing** this term, the children will learn about systems and networks, including how information is shared. We will also include two important Online Safety lessons looking at self-image and identity as well as online bullying.

The children's **PE** sessions will be taught on a Thursday afternoon by Mr Stevenson-Leigh. This term the children will be completing units on hockey and netball. Our second PE slot will be on a Friday with Mrs Gibbs. Children will need to wear their PE kit to school on these days and will remain in them all day, so will not need uniform to change into. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit so they can participate successfully.

We will be following the Jigsaw scheme of work for **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**. This begins by setting personal goals for the upcoming year, before exploring the topic 'Being Me in My World'. The children will receive weekly awards in assembly related to the skills taught in these lessons. We will then move onto our Autumn 2 unit which is 'Celebrating Difference'.

In French lessons, we will be revising previous key vocabulary and will learn all about the date, including numbers, days and months. We will continue to attempt and write longer, more interesting sentences and learn to manipulate language through our increased awareness of phonetic and grammatical structures.

### **PPA Time**

My weekly planning, preparation and assessment time will be covered by Mr Stevenson-Leigh and Mrs Campbell-Pugh this term, who will be teaching the children PE and Art on a Thursday afternoon.

### **Home Learning**

Homework is an essential part of school, as it helps children to continue learning and make progress. Home learning will be given out every Friday and returned the following Wednesday. Each week, your child will receive a grid of homework for maths and English that will focus on revisiting previous learning and consolidating the learning from that week. Please be aware that this homework should only take them a maximum of 20 minutes and won't include any new learning. If your child struggles with the tasks, let them give it a go for 20 minutes, then stop and let me know by finding me on the door or writing a note in their homework book. Not only will this homework be a great way to consolidate any prior and current learning but will support your child in becoming more independent and will inevitably help to prepare them for homework deadlines when they transition into secondary school.

### **Reading**

Please continue to read with your child every day and sign their reading records. We hope many children become Reading Champions at the end of the year. Children will take out and return their reading books every Wednesday. In Years 5 and 6, children may choose to read independently at home. This should be for at least ten minutes and should be recorded in their reading record daily. It is important that you talk to your child about what they have read; you will find some question stems that could be used to support such conversations on our class page.

On our class page, you will also find a list of recommended texts for Year 5 that are suitably challenging. Please ensure your child has their reading record in their bag each day to be checked by an adult.

### **Maths Magicians**

This year, we will continue with our 'Maths Magicians!' initiative which focuses on supporting pupils to learn key mathematical facts that are essential if pupils are to understand more complex concepts. Children across the school will again be expected to work towards knowing and remembering the key facts for their year group, which have been identified on the parent information sheet sent home. Of course, children will be taught these in class, but it is important that they practise these at home too. Please ensure that children practise the relevant facts for 10 minutes each day. There are 12 stages for the children to work through each term, with a quiz each Friday. Successful completion of quizzes will result in prizes being awarded in our weekly celebration assembly. Optional additional home learning includes practising times tables and handwriting. Further information and links to relevant websites can be found on our class page.

It is going to be a great term with lots of exciting learning opportunities.

Please see the school's website for key dates and any extra useful resources to help your child at home.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Smith