

Caversham Park Primary School



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Together we enjoy, create and achieve

Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you and your families had an enjoyable and restful summer holiday. It has been lovely to welcome everyone into Year 5 Woodpecker class this week. We have begun to get settled back into school routines and have created a class charter to help ensure everyone's rights are respected in our classroom so that we can all feel safe and ready to learn. Please can I remind you to name ALL ITEMS including shoes, all items in PE kits and water bottles.

The children may have already told you that our first **History** topic is World War Two. Today they have been given a project homework to investigate any family connections to WWII (please see separate letter for more details). We began by looking at some of the causes of the war and which countries were involved. We will then look at what life was like for men, women and children in Britain at that time and the roles and experiences they had, such as evacuations and air raids. After half term, our first **Geography** topic is Brazil. The children will learn about the Amazon Rainforest, including the flora and fauna found there, learn more about the different world biomes and compare their lives to life in a Brazilian favela.

To start the year, Year 1-Year 5 are all using a shared text called 'Change Sings' for our **English** lessons. We have learnt a bit about the author and will be learning more about performance poetry, writing and performing our own poetry and celebrating what makes us all unique. Our first book back as Woodpecker class is called 'Otto; the Autobiography of a Teddy Bear' Which links to our WWII topic where our writing will include character descriptions, newspaper articles and historic narratives.

During **reading** sessions, we will be practising the skills of retrieval, inference, sequencing and summarising. Our first text is 'Letters from the Lighthouse', also linked to WWII. I have attached some useful questions in the front of the children's **Reading Records** to help you support them at home with these skills. Each child should have a minimum of 3 reads in their Reading Records weekly, at least one of these needs to be a 'read aloud to an adult' session. Comments should be written after each read; **children are encouraged to write their own comments**. Each reading session at home should be a minimum of 15 minutes and can be independent reading or reading aloud to an adult. They can read a school book, a library book, complete online Read Theory or read a book/graphic novel/newspaper/from home - as long as they record what they are reading in their Reading Record. As part of their homework, these are handed in and checked every Monday, with missed sessions being caught up.

In **Maths**, we start with a focus on Number and Place Value up to 1 million, including using Roman Numerals. We will revise partitioning, adding and subtracting 10/100/1,000/10,000 using mental methods including number lines, compare and order numbers, round numbers and also look at negative numbers. When we finish, we will then move on to written addition and subtraction methods.

Once a week, while I have my PPA time, Mrs Newbury will be teaching Woodpecker class. She teaches maths as part of this, with her first topic beginning Shape and Angles. Mrs Newbury will also be teaching:

- **RE** (a first 2 week unit looking at 'What shapes a person's worldview?', then moving to Hinduism),
- **French** ('La phonetique' and 'Ma famille')
- **Art** (Pop Art)

In **Music** we will be listening and appraising music that was typical during WWII and starting to learn to play the ukulele. Every child will have their own ukulele (which we provide at school). They will learn to name the different parts of the instrument, to play the open strings and start playing pieces using chords. We are hoping to be ready to perform for you in the last celebration assembly of this half term - watch this space!

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Our first **PSHCE** unit is about families, friends and people who care for us. We will look at what makes a healthy friendship, how to help make others feel included and look at peer influence. This will all build from our initial work this week on our class charter and making sure that everyone in Woodpecker class feels happy, and safe at school.

Our first **Computing** unit will use physical computing to explore the concept of selection in programming through the use of the Crumble programming environment. Pupils will be introduced to a microcontroller (Crumble controller) and learn how to connect and program it to control components (including output devices such as LEDs and motors). They will be introduced to conditions as a means of controlling the flow of actions in a program and use of their knowledge of repetition and conditions when introduced to the concept of selection (through the 'if...then...' structure) and writing algorithms and programs that utilise this concept.

Woodpecker and Owl class will be joining together for their **PE** sessions this year. Our PE days are likely to be Tuesday and Friday this term. Their PE kit will remain in school for the term which allows for any changes to these days. Our indoor unit is gymnastics and our outdoor session is hockey. Your child needs suitable sports trainers for outdoor PE and non-slip plimsoles or bare feet for indoor lessons. Those children with pierced ears should remove their earrings or cover their studs with their own ear tape (to be kept in their PE bag) to cover them. All children are requested to tie hair up where it is long, especially during sporting or physical activities.

Homework: Completed homework sheets (not spelling) are placed into the clearly labelled tray in the classroom.

- Monday = Reading Records checked - mentioned in detail above
- Thursday = English/Topic based homework and maths homework
- Friday = Spelling homework and their test
- Daily/as often as possible = times table practice to help support wizard maths progression

All pupils have been provided with a plastic folder for their homework, any letters, their Reading Record and reading book. This will help everything to stay neat and hopefully stop any damage from rain or leaking water bottles. Please check their homework folder to retrieve letters, remove any marked homework and ensure that it is in their bag daily.

If you have any questions or concerns at any point throughout the term, please do come and speak to me before or after school.

Kind regards,
Mrs Davies
Year 5 Woodpecker Class teacher