



## HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Head teacher: Mrs A Harvey

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Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year and a warm welcome to Year 5. It has been lovely to begin to get to know the children and make a start on some learning together. We have had a very enjoyable first few days back and I am sure that this will continue throughout the year ahead!

You are likely to have already seen Mrs Harvey's newsletter, including some important points and dates for the upcoming term. I will reiterate some of those points in the hope for a smooth start to the new school year for us all and to hopefully answer any immediate questions you may have about the start of the Autumn Term in Year 5.

### PE:

PE for this first half term will involve a weekly gymnastics session at Richard Rose Morton Academy on Tuesdays, between 10 and 11am. These sessions begin on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September and will run for 5 weeks, however we will continue PE in school on this day for the rest of this half term, once the sessions are complete. We will travel to and from the sessions by coach, therefore please ensure children arrive promptly to school on this day in particular, so we can ensure that everyone has all they need before leaving. As usual, your child will come to school in their PE kit on PE days and will stay in these kits for the full school day. They are welcome to bring a change of jumper/ hoodie to change into should they wish. Please note that children may be required to wait outside for the hall to be opened at RRMA, and so weather appropriate clothing is always recommended. The second PE focus of this half term will be swimming. Our 5 swimming sessions will happen over the course of one week, beginning on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October and ending on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October. These will happen at Woggle Goggle Swimming Pool, in Penrith. Again, we will travel to and from our swimming sessions by coach. More information, nearer the time, will follow.

### Reading:

I am sure that you agree that reading is incredibly important in assisting your child with their learning across the curriculum and that reading for pleasure is a vital part of this. To support with this, children can choose up to two books from our school library to read both at home and at school, and we encourage children to read at home, with an adult, as often as possible. Children should always have one book within their ZPD range so that they can then complete an Accelerated Reader quiz within school time. The second book (should they choose to have one) can be any book from the library at all, regardless of the ZPD range it falls into. Children may instead choose to read only their ZPD book, or enjoy an additional book of their choosing from home. If the second book does not fall into your child's ZPD range, we ask that they do not quiz on this, unless they have discussed this with their class teacher.

### Water and snack:

The children's water bottles will stay with them in their designated place in class during the day and will be taken home by the children each night. Please can these be sent to school filled with still water only. There will be times throughout the day when children can refill these, if needed. As usual, children are welcome to bring their own healthy snack for playtime. **Please can you ensure that these do not contain nuts, due to allergies within the school community** – thank you for your cooperation with this.

### Homework:

In Year 5, we ask that the children spend time (at least 30 minutes a week) learning their weekly spellings, which will be assigned to them on edshed.com (the spelling shed section). There will be a **spelling test**, usually on a Monday, **every week** in class. Each half term, I will add a full half term's worth of weekly spelling lists to Google Classroom so that both you and your child can refer to the list, if useful. We also recommend that the children spend up to 30 minutes weekly on one of our maths platforms (usually maths shed in Year 5 or one of our times tables platforms). Reading their ZPD book plus any other reading at home, with an adult and as often as possible during the week, is something we also encourage and we greatly appreciate your support with this.

### Contact:

As your child's class teacher, I am here throughout the year for both you and your child/ren to answer any questions you may have or support in the best possible way. If at any point during the school year you would like to request a meeting, an appointment can be made by contacting myself directly, via email, or by contacting the school office. Alternatively, if you wish to discuss anything that does not require a face-to-face meeting, please feel free to contact me using my email address (below), or by arranging a phone-call, and I will endeavor to reply as soon as possible.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you would like anything to be clarified further.

I hope that the children have a fantastic time in Year 5 – I'm certainly very much looking forward to the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

*L. Coulthard*

Mrs L Coulthard

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