

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your child's class teacher for this year. This letter will inform you of our class organisation and some of the things I have planned this term.

I will be teaching Literacy and Numeracy to all pupils in HBA from Mondays – Thursdays, with Mrs South teaching on Fridays.

**Literacy:** The majority of our lessons will focus on sentence level improvements, with children planning, drafting and evaluating the effectiveness of their sentences. We will in addition have grammar, spelling/vocabulary, Guided Reading and comprehension sessions. The purpose of this Literacy curriculum is to provide a solid foundation for the extended writing tasks that will follow later in the term, and of course, lay the foundation for secondary-school preparedness.

**Maths:** This first half term will primarily focus on the strategies and methodology behind the four operations - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Mental maths will be practised daily.

**Homework expectations per week as per school approved policy:**

	Year 5	Year 6
Literacy	35 mins	40 mins
Numeracy	35 mins	40 mins
Spellings	35 mins	40 mins (recommended to be divided into 3 sessions per week)
Times Tables	Up to 12 x 12	All times tables must be known, calculated <i>at speed</i> , and need to include multiples, factors and the inverse (division facts)
Reading	Read aloud at least 3 x each week	
Science	30 mins	

**Homework Timetable and Weekly Tests:**

Monday	Spellings	Test is following Monday
Monday	Science	Every other week (Mr Ruxton)
Wednesday	Maths, Literacy	Completed work returned the following Tuesday (NB. Please encourage your child to check their understanding of the task on Wednesday night, so that I can address any concerns on Thursday)
Friday	Mental Maths Test	No specific homework, but ensure that timetables are rehearsed regularly and mental and/or pen and paper calculations are practised

**Ways to support your child at home:**

- Rather than ask what your child learned in school that day (and having them say little), ask what surprised them, interested them, what they found out that they didn't know before, how they can link this knowledge to what they already know or have experienced, etc. in order to stimulate discussion and reflection.
- Understand that some homework assignments may involve your child teaching you a concept they have learned in class. Learn together how to get the result required. In terms of maths, by all means teach your child an alternative method for approaching a problem, but bear in mind that they do need to know specific methods and their homework may require these methods to be put into practise.
- Emphasise the importance of homework and hard work as a route to success rather than relying on any innate talent or simply not giving their best. Ideally, help your child to establish a regular time and place (away from the TV) to complete their homework
- Reading is key to the development of your child's learning process as it underpins the whole curriculum. Do make sure that they are reading a suitable fiction text regularly, interspersed with non-fiction and different genres, including newspapers. Children are expected to read three times a week and to make notes on their progress in their Reading Record (which is checked on a Monday). At this age, it is still good for them to read

aloud to you, and occasionally hear you read to them so that they can model your intonation. Do question them on their thoughts about the setting, characters, plot, author's choices, etc.

- Vocabulary development happens quickest during active learning: unknown word meanings should be systematically sought out, with those words that could be used in class writing being written into the back of the spelling book to aid retention.

**Your child's responsibilities:**

Year 6 children are expected to take increasing responsibility for their own work and organisation. This includes accurately writing down homework in their homework planner; handing in homework in time; having the appropriate resources such as classroom stationery, PE kit (Tuesdays) and swimming kit (Fridays). Please help your child develop good habits now by helping them set up a good system for this.

**Achievements:** Parents can record extra-curricular achievements outside the classroom in their children's homework book. This might include passing a music exam, attaining a well-earned badge in Scouts or Guides or playing particularly well in sport at the weekend. It will enable me to gain a holistic picture of your son/daughter's progress and particular talents. It will also enable us as a school to recognise and celebrate achievement outside of the classroom.

**Afternoon topics Year 6:**

<b>Science</b>	Forces
<b>I.C.T</b>	Coding
<b>History</b>	The Anglo-Saxons; The Vikings ( <i>up to half term</i> )
<b>Geography</b>	(second half to be advised)
<b>P.E</b>	Swimming, Rugby and Football
<b>Music</b>	Making instruments
<b>Art</b>	Saxon and Viking inspired art
<b>P.H.S.E</b>	Looking after myself; the democratic process ( <i>up to half term</i> )
<b>R.E</b>	Picturing Jesus

**Afternoon topics Year 5:**

<b>Science</b>	Earth, Space, Sun; Materials
<b>I.C.T</b>	Coding
<b>History</b>	The Anglo-Saxons; The Vikings ( <i>up to half term</i> )
<b>Geography</b>	Investigating our World
<b>P.E</b>	Swimming, Running and Football
<b>Music</b>	Descriptive music
<b>Art</b>	Saxon and Viking inspired art
<b>P.H.S.E</b>	New Beginnings, Getting on and dealing with falling out
<b>R.E</b>	Picturing Jesus

Finally, please contact me if there are any queries regarding the information above. Tuesday and Thursday evenings after school are the best times for me; otherwise we can arrange a meeting convenient to us both, at a later date. I very much hope to see you all at 'Meet the Teacher Evening' on the 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm, where I will explain more about the curriculum and answer any initial questions.

Thank you in advance for all your support this year. I am looking forward to a very productive and exciting year in HBA, and being a part of your child's academic progress.

Mrs Alfert  
 Class Teacher  
 HBA Curzon CE Combined School