

Welcome to Class 5 - September 2020

Dear Year 5 Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful meeting the children this week and beginning our learning journey together. They appear to have settled in well and we are really looking forward to getting to know them and seeing their progress this year. As we have become more accustomed to our new routines in these unusual times, we would like to share the following information to ensure your child is able to make the most of school life.

Beginning & End of Day:

The Year 5 timetable starts at 9am, however where there are clashes with sibling drop offs the door will be open from 8.50am. The school day ends at 3.20pm and, similarly, we will take care of the children where pick-up clashes occur until they can be collected safely.

Pencil Cases:

Firstly, thank you! The children came in well prepared this week. Can we politely remind you that some children will need to streamline the number of pencil cases as they only need ONE small pencil case with essentials (and perhaps one further small pencil case with coloured pencils, fineliners or felt tips). These must be small enough to fit in their tray. We will encourage the children to bring 'extras' home (you may wish to quarantine these) and only keep the essentials in school in order to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. Once again, if all items can be clearly named that will help to avoid confusion and sharing of equipment.

Water bottles:

Due to risks associated with Covid-19, children are unable to use the water fountain at present so therefore it is really important that they bring a full waterbottle to school everyday. Please ensure water bottles are clearly named and cleaned thoroughly to reduce the risk of home/school contamination.

PE:

For the time being, PE lessons will take place on a Monday (this is an alteration from our original memo) and later, once things settle down, on a Friday. We will notify the children of when the Friday PE lessons will begin. **All children should come to school in their PE kit and trainers on this day and not in their school uniform. Please ensure no jewellery or earrings are worn and that tracksuits are a plain dark colour.** It might also be worth the children having a light-weight waterproof jacket incase of inclement weather.

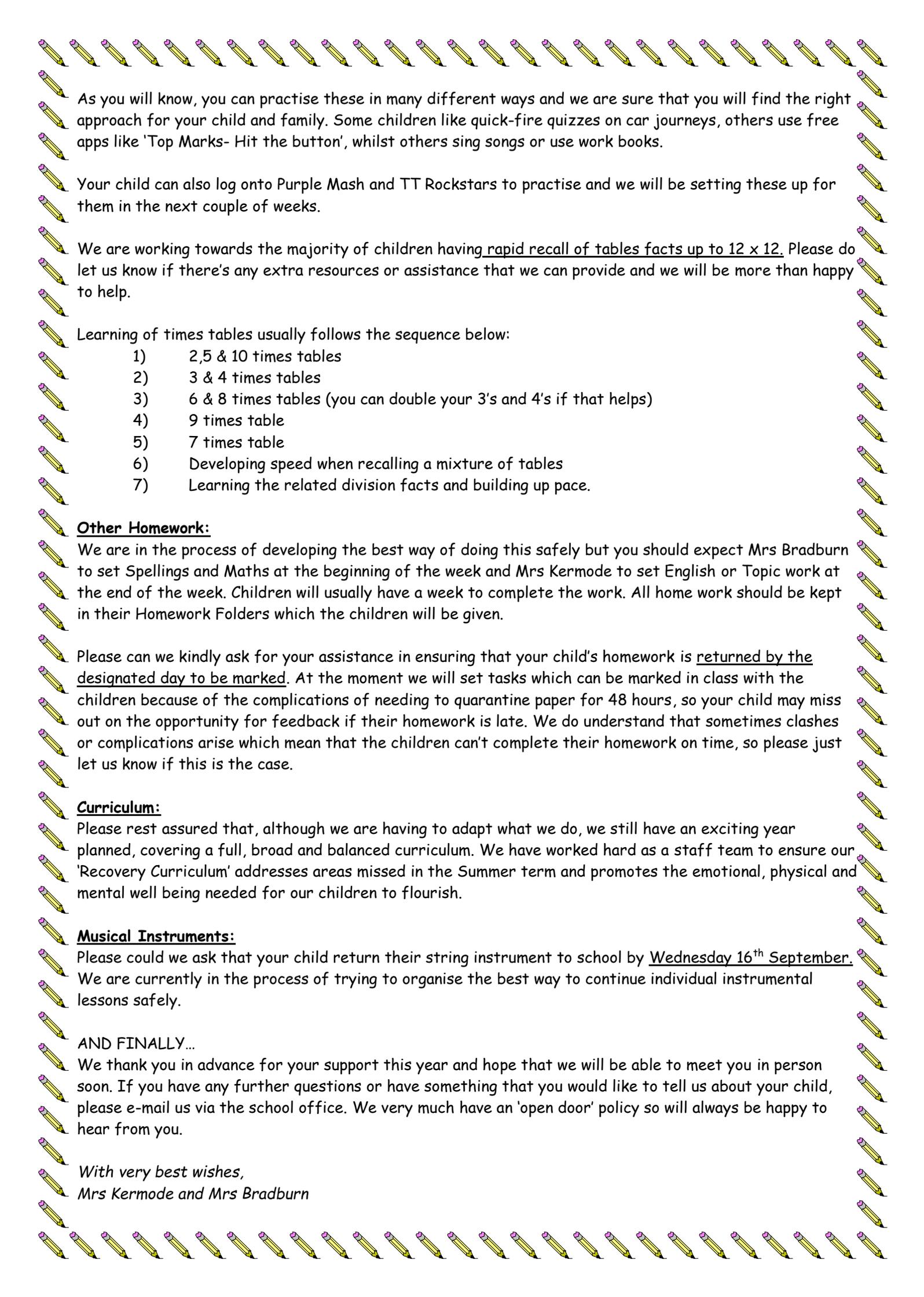
Reading:

We would ideally expect all children to be reading for at least 20 minutes, 5 days a week although we know that individual family circumstances are different. We have a wide range of books available in school for children to choose from or they are welcome to bring a book from home to keep in their tray.

Even though many of the children are fluent readers it is key that they still read aloud to an adult at least once a week so that you can check understanding, discuss story plots, character and vocabulary (some children will benefit from being heard more than this). This is vital to both their reading and writing development at this age. Please could we ask you to monitor and encourage your child to record the books they have read on their reading passport for you to sign once the book is completed.

Times Tables:

Secure times table knowledge underpins much of the Year 5 Maths Curriculum so please make time for regular practise, securing one 'new' times table at a time before moving on to the next, particularly if your child finds this area of learning challenging.



As you will know, you can practise these in many different ways and we are sure that you will find the right approach for your child and family. Some children like quick-fire quizzes on car journeys, others use free apps like 'Top Marks- Hit the button', whilst others sing songs or use work books.

Your child can also log onto Purple Mash and TT Rockstars to practise and we will be setting these up for them in the next couple of weeks.

We are working towards the majority of children having rapid recall of tables facts up to 12 x 12. Please do let us know if there's any extra resources or assistance that we can provide and we will be more than happy to help.

Learning of times tables usually follows the sequence below:

- 1) 2,5 & 10 times tables
- 2) 3 & 4 times tables
- 3) 6 & 8 times tables (you can double your 3's and 4's if that helps)
- 4) 9 times table
- 5) 7 times table
- 6) Developing speed when recalling a mixture of tables
- 7) Learning the related division facts and building up pace.

Other Homework:

We are in the process of developing the best way of doing this safely but you should expect Mrs Bradburn to set Spellings and Maths at the beginning of the week and Mrs Kermode to set English or Topic work at the end of the week. Children will usually have a week to complete the work. All home work should be kept in their Homework Folders which the children will be given.

Please can we kindly ask for your assistance in ensuring that your child's homework is returned by the designated day to be marked. At the moment we will set tasks which can be marked in class with the children because of the complications of needing to quarantine paper for 48 hours, so your child may miss out on the opportunity for feedback if their homework is late. We do understand that sometimes clashes or complications arise which mean that the children can't complete their homework on time, so please just let us know if this is the case.

Curriculum:

Please rest assured that, although we are having to adapt what we do, we still have an exciting year planned, covering a full, broad and balanced curriculum. We have worked hard as a staff team to ensure our 'Recovery Curriculum' addresses areas missed in the Summer term and promotes the emotional, physical and mental well being needed for our children to flourish.

Musical Instruments:

Please could we ask that your child return their string instrument to school by Wednesday 16th September. We are currently in the process of trying to organise the best way to continue individual instrumental lessons safely.

AND FINALLY...

We thank you in advance for your support this year and hope that we will be able to meet you in person soon. If you have any further questions or have something that you would like to tell us about your child, please e-mail us via the school office. We very much have an 'open door' policy so will always be happy to hear from you.

*With very best wishes,
Mrs Kermode and Mrs Bradburn*