



OUGHTON LIFE:

Learning, Inclusion, Friendship, Enjoyment..... for everyone.

Everyone – children, staff and families.

Year 5 Parent Handbook

September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you had a lovely Summer. There are lots of exciting activities planned this year.

Within this booklet we have put together an overview of the curriculum for your child this year and also some general information and reminders that we hope you will find useful. The booklets are specific to each year group so if you have more than one child please do read each booklet. Copies of these are also available on the school website and through the school office.

Welcome to Year 5

Key Stage Leader: Mrs Smith

Class Teachers:

Mrs Lopez on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

Mrs Rodriguez on Wednesdays and Fridays

Teaching Assistants:

Mrs Jennings-Dawes on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Mrs Lacy on Thursdays and Fridays

Working Together

Your support is important to enable your child to do as well as they can and we value a close working relationship with all parents and carers. We aim for children to leave our school having achieved their best, by developing their skills and talents through a range of learning activities and experiences. The school teaches a broad and balanced curriculum based on the National Curriculum, which is enriched through additional events and activities. We expect children to fully participate in events and educational visits. If there is a concern or difficulty in your child participating, please speak to your child's class teacher or the Key Stage Leader in confidence.

Your child will be given home learning activities. Please support your child in completing these. It is important that home learning is completed as it supplements learning at school and gives children

the opportunity to practise their skills and extend their learning further. Your child's teacher will be the key point of contact for you and it is most helpful if you let the teacher know about any matters that may affect your child, so that we can support them in school. You may sometimes have questions or concerns and your child's teacher will be happy to discuss these with you. Brief updates, for example about end of day collection, can be easily exchanged at the classroom door as your child arrives for school. However, it is best to arrange a meeting if you wish to have a more detailed conversation. Feel free to ring the School Office 01462 450716 to leave a message for the teacher who will then ring you back at a convenient time and/or arrange a meeting. Please be aware that discussions at the end of the school day must occur after all children have been dismissed to their parents/carers.

Most matters will be appropriately discussed and resolved with the teacher. However, you may feel a matter is more appropriately discussed with a more senior member of staff, in which case you may wish to arrange a conversation with either your child's Phase Leader or one of our Assistant Headteachers – Mrs Phillipson or Mrs Smith. In some cases, you may wish to speak to Mrs Clayton our Headteacher. Any conversations or meetings can be arranged either directly with the class teacher or via the School Office on 01462 450716.

If you feel that your child or your family require some Pastoral Support, please pop into the School Office or ring to contact Mrs Woollon, our Pastoral Support Manager. Mrs Phillipson is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator if you have a query about Special Needs. If you have a concern about the safety of any child, within our school or out of school, please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection – Mrs Clayton, Mrs Phillipson or Mrs Woollon.

Timetable and School day

Just to remind you that we open the classroom door at 8:45am and our learning starts at this time. Please ensure that your child is on time for school to enable a good start to the school day. Staff are working with children at this time so be aware it can be difficult to talk to parents at the door with children in the classroom.

We teach Maths and English (including Guided Reading) each day. In the afternoons, we teach the Foundation subjects and other Core subjects such as Science, Computing, Geography, History, RE, PE, Art, Design and Technology (DT), Music, French (KS2 only) and Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE). These subjects build up our curriculum and ensure that we teach a rich, broad and varied curriculum to every child.

Attendance

It is vital that every child attend school regularly. There is a strong link between children's good progress in school and their good attendance. We are a Local Authority school and governed by both the LA and Government policies. Holidays and days out of school will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances deemed by the Headteacher. Any requests will be considered and authorised at the Headteacher's discretion in accordance with the Local Authority and national guidelines.

Please be aware that we issue penalty fines and lates are also included within this. It is essential that children do not miss learning through being late for school. This disrupts their start to the school day and also impacts on the teaching of the class. Please read our Attendance Policy, which is on the website, for more information. Please also read our Attendance Newsletter – Attendance Matters.

In Year 5, we aim to win the Attendance Award each week! As a school, we aim for every child to attend 96% or above. When a child is absent from school, it is difficult for them to catch up. Please help us to be the best class in the school for attendance! We give rewards for attendance – certificates as well as a prize draw!

Curriculum and how you can help your child

Our Curriculum Overview for Year 5 is available on our website. This enables you to see the topics / key learning areas taught across the year in all of the subjects.

Maths: The National Curriculum is designed to ensure all pupils become fluent in the fundamentals of Maths, solve problems and reason mathematically. Fluency in Maths is related to children being able to learn and remember key facts e.g. the 7 times table. Problem Solving is the ability to apply Maths to a variety of problems e.g. word problems and investigations. Reasoning is to use what is known in Maths and to tackle a problem and make connections between their learning. For example, are all multiples of 9 even? No – how do you know? Give examples of this.

Our School Calculation policy is available to view on the school website.

English: The National Curriculum is designed to ensure that all pupils become fluent and confident speakers, readers and writers. Language is a key priority at Oughton Primary and we know that language and vocabulary are the key to success in life. Reading is vital as it helps us learn in all other subjects.

Please listen to your child read and sign their Reading Record Book. We expect the children to read to an adult at home at least three times a week, with an aim of five times a week, as part of their weekly home learning. Please discuss books with your child as well as listening to them read to help them improve their comprehension and deepen their understanding of a text.

Please discuss the Reading Record Book with your children. Children will be rewarded for reading at home as they move around the World! Reading Around the World offers challenges and rewards throughout.

Also, share a book with your child, read to them as we are never too old to listen to stories! It is important that we build up vocabulary knowledge and listening and discussing stories helps this.

Please help your child practise their spelling.

Please see the spelling words the children will be studying during Year 5. Please work with your child to practise and learn these words as well as similar words with the same letter patterns:

Word list – years 5 and 6

accommodate	embarrass	persuade
accompany	environment	physical
according	equip (–ped, –ment)	prejudice
achieve	especially	privilege
aggressive	exaggerate	profession
amateur	excellent	programme
ancient	existence	pronunciation
apparent	explanation	queue
appreciate	familiar	recognise
attached	foreign	recommend
available	forty	relevant
average	frequently	restaurant
awkward	government	rhyme
bargain	guarantee	rhythm
bruise	harass	sacrifice
category	hindrance	secretary
cemetery	identity	shoulder
committee	immediate(ly)	signature
communicate	individual	sincere(ly)
community	interfere	soldier
competition	interrupt	stomach
conscience*	language	sufficient
conscious*	leisure	suggest
controversy	lightning	symbol
convenience	marvellous	system
correspond	mischievous	temperature
criticise (critic + ise)	muscle	thorough
curiosity	necessary	twelfth
definite	neighbour	variety
desperate	nuisance	vegetable
determined	occupy	vehicle
develop	occur	yacht
dictionary	opportunity	
disastrous	parliament	

Science – this year our topics are Space, Properties of Materials, Forces, Living Things and their Habitats and Life Cycles of Animals. To help your child build up their knowledge within these topics, you could do some research and find out language associated with these subject areas.

RE – this year we will be learning about the concept of religious freedom, different Christian denominations, discussing beliefs on what happens when we die and learning about the roles of religious leaders and religious law.

Computing – we will be learning how to make programs, including games, using Scratch, learning how computers use lists of instructions using a program called FLOWOL and improving our

knowledge about how to stay safe on the internet. Please ensure that your child is using computers safely at home too.

History – our topics this year are the Mayans, the British Empire as well as learning about the importance of York in British history. We will be learning from a range of sources and artefacts. In addition, we will be discussing how and why some sources could be more accurate than others. In History, we discuss the topics, which help to expand language and understanding further. Also, we carry out research to learn more about these topics. Any additional home learning research that the children can do will help with their knowledge and understanding of the topics.

Geography – we will be learning about National Parks, Mountains and Volcanoes. This will include researching these features and finding out where they are. Talk to your child about the United Kingdom and the world: it is important that children know about places in the world. Keep your children up to date with world geographical news.

Music – we will be learning about a range of music types including rap and rock music. We will be performing these in the form of songs and using musical instruments like xylophones. Talk to your children about different genres of music and how they differ.

Art – this year we are developing skills to reflect depth, emotion and movement, exploring painting and mixed media and learning about 3D art and sculptures. Share with your children what artists you are familiar with and why you do or do not like their style of work.

Design and Technology (DT) – this year, we will be focusing on cooking, creating a monitoring device and exploring mechanics. We will be designing, creating and evaluating our own spaghetti bolognese in cooking. Encourage your children to look at recipes and help out with making dinners.

PE – this year, we will learn a range of skills, including Cricket, Dance, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Swimming, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, Tennis and Athletics. These skills will help your children improve body control, teamwork and stamina. Encourage your child to keep fit and try new activities.

French – we will be learning about the world around us and how to have basic discussions in French. Our topics will include school life, food and talking about ourselves. Our learning in French will include a range of spoken and written work. Challenge your family at home to speak some words in French!

PSHE – the whole school themes are Being Me in my World, Celebrating Difference, Goals and Dreams, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me. In November, we will be focusing on anti-bullying and learning about what this means. In the summer term, we will be teaching our Sex and Relationship Education.

Useful websites to help your child:

Oughton Primary and Nursery School Website: <http://www.oughton.herts.sch.uk>

TT Rock Stars: <https://play.ttrockstars.com>

Mathletics: <https://login.mathletics.com/> (if your child is unsure on an element there are videos on the website)

SPAG.com: <https://www.spag.com/>

Your child will have a log in for Times Table Rock Stars, Mathletics and SPAG.com - please see their Reading Record Book.

Please look at www.oughton.herts.sch.uk for more information about our curriculum. Also, keep an eye on our class page – photos will be added throughout the year.

Trips, Events and Key Dates

Year 5 Parental Meeting is being held on **Thursday 11th September**. The meeting is to discuss the curriculum in Year 5 and further ways in which you can help your child with their learning.

Year 5 will be holding a Let's Celebrate our Learning Assembly on **Tuesday 25th November** at **2:50pm**. Please join us for this.

In Year 5, the children will also have the chance to visit the London Science Museum and the trip is linked to our Space science topic. We will provide details via email once the date has been confirmed by the museum.

There will be some 'Wow' Days across the year such as our Mayan Wow Day on **Thursday 27th November**, for which the children do not need to dress up. There will be a DT Wow Day on **Thursday 26th March** in which we will be using our cookery skills for recipes the children will have devised themselves. In the Summer term, on **Thursday 21st May**, we will have our Art Wow Day linked to our 3D Sculpture unit.

Please see our website for dates regarding holidays and Inset days, plus our KS 2 Carol Concert. There will be extra dates and events throughout the year so please make sure that you read all correspondence via Arbor and all newsletters. Please note, dates may change if necessary.

Online Safety

Throughout all of the units in Computing lessons, children will be taught how to keep safe when using any computer, tablet or website. This will include the safe use of photographs, usernames and email. Children are encouraged to use tablets and computers in the presence of their parents at home. We will follow up any concerns regarding children's use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp etc. Social media sites are not considered appropriate for children of primary school age. Please follow the government guidance and age guidance for games, apps and media sites.

Home Learning

We expect every child to complete their home learning tasks. However, if you find your child is struggling, please contact the class teachers and, as a school, we can support your child. Online homework will be set on a Wednesday and will need to be completed by the following Wednesday.

We expect every child to read regularly. We also expect all children to be practising their times table skills on TT Rock Stars and this task will be set weekly. Maths home learning will be set weekly using Mathletics and spelling, punctuation and grammar work will be set each week using SPAG.com. See your child's Reading Record Book for log-ins. Some children will be set extra reading work on Literacy Gold.

General Information

School book bags can be bought from the School Office. Children are expected to bring their reading book in each day.

Snacks:

As a school, we know how important healthy eating is. The Government provides a fruit or vegetable snack for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children and we as a school have decided to provide this to Key Stage 2 children as well.

Dinners:

Herts Catering Ltd provide our school dinners and offer a hot meal each day which is either meat or vegetarian as well as a jacket potato option. They also offer a cold packed lunch option. Children pick their lunches, in class, each day. We provide milk for KS2 children to drink at lunchtimes if they wish.

If you provide a home packed lunch for your child, please remember that we are a nut-free school. Nuts must not be brought into school and this includes chocolate spreads which often contain nuts. (Be aware of almonds in sun cream lotion too.) Home packed lunches need to be healthy and balanced – no chocolate bars or fizzy / high sugar drinks.

Every child needs their own water bottle to ensure they get enough fluids during the school day. We encourage children to drink water in the school day and do not allow any other drinks (unless they are part of their packed lunch). Please ensure your child does not use Air-up pods in their water bottles.

PE and PE kits:

Our PE days are Mondays and Thursdays.

Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit in – white t-shirt, black shorts, black jogging bottoms and trainers and this remains in school. It will be sent home at half term to be washed.

With regards to swimming lessons, these usually take place in the Spring term. We will send out emails nearer the time once we receive details regarding the sessions from Hitchin Swimming Pool.

Fitness is a key focus in Oughton and children in KS1 and 2 will be running our 'Daily Dash' circuit each day. Your child needs to have a pair of trainers in school every day to change into for their Daily Dash activity.

Clubs:

As a school, we offer a range of sport and subject-based clubs which will be delivered by staff throughout the year. Messages will be sent about clubs via Arbor.

Breakfast Club:

Premier Education provide a Breakfast Club within school for Reception to Year 6 children. Please book your child in – there is a link on our website. The room which this is held in is Lime, access via Moss Way red gate and through the green gate and the first classroom is Lime.

After School Club:

We provide an after-school provision from 3:15pm-6pm which includes a healthy snack. If you require a place for your child, please book and pay via Arbor. The room which this is held in is Lime and access is via the Moss Way red gate and through the green gate and first classroom is Lime.

Rewards / Houses:

We will continue to use House Points and awards such as 'The Golden Book' and 'Super Star', 'Positive Play' and attendance treats. Your child will be in either Sapphire (Blue), Topaz (Yellow), Emerald (Green) or Ruby (Red) and will be able to earn house points. Certificates will be given for house points. Great effort, good home learning effort, completing Times Table Rock Star challenges, extra work at home as well as regular reading will help your child to earn lots of house points!

Finally...

The Year 5 team is really looking forward to this year. Remember, if you have a concern, ring the School Office and we will get back to you. The most successful educational year is built on one which

shows a close relationship between school and home. Our priority is your child. It is vital that they are happy in order to flourish and develop to their full potential this year.

Mrs Lopez and Mrs Rodriguez

Class Teachers