



# Decoy Community Primary School And First Steps Nursery

Deer Park Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1DH

Tel: (01626) 353282

**Headteacher:** Mrs Heather Poustie

[admin@decoyschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@decoyschool.co.uk)

Tuesday 17th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find below the information that you will need for this term in Year 5. We hope that it is useful, but do please get in touch if you need any other information.

**Reading** – In Year 5, the books that your children are reading usually come from the library as part of our Accelerated Reader scheme. We encourage you to discuss and question your child on their reading book; this will help them when they come to quiz. The comprehension of the text is very important and a child cannot move onto the next level of books until their understanding is secure. Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes can be taken at home but it is vital that children take these quizzes independently without adult support. Children should know their usernames and passwords but if they have forgotten, please contact your child's class teacher. The website for taking quizzes can be found at: <https://ukhosted51.renlearn.co.uk/2236651/default.aspx> and can be found on our Google Classroom.

Children should record in their reading record which page they have read up to, and make a quick comment. We recommend that children try and read for at least ten minutes, at least once a day. If your child takes a quiz, this should also be recorded, along with their score. Please can an adult at home sign the reading record comments **four times a week** in order to evidence that your child has read. Helping our children to become fluent readers is perhaps THE most important thing we can do for them. Reading books and records need to be in school every day; we will check and sign reading records every **Wednesday** to make sure that children are keeping up with their reading.

**Curriculum** – Our school website contains details of our whole school curriculum. In addition, please find a list below of topics being covered in Year 5 this Spring Term.

- PSHE – Relationships, Changing Me – this unit includes discussion of puberty. We will be arranging a separate meeting for parents to discuss the content of these lessons.
- Art and Design – Scientific and botanical drawing, Maria Merian, Carl Linnaeus
- Computing – We Are Adventure Gamers, We are VR Designers
- Design and Technology – Lego League, Monitoring and Control
- English – Adventure story writing (based on *Beowulf*), Poetry based on *The Lost Words*, non-fiction writing based on *Animalium*
- Geography – Map Maestros – orienteering and map reading
- History – Viking raiders and the struggle for control of England



- Mathematics – Fractions, decimals and percentages, properties of shape, position and direction
- Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish) – Mi clase (in the classroom), Ricitos De Oro y Los Tres Osos (Goldilocks and the Three Bears)
- Music – Consolidating work on rhythm and notation, using Viking songs
- Religious Education – How do Christians decide how to live? What matters most to Humanists and Christians?
- Physical Education – Striking and Fielding, Gymfit circuits, Fitness Frenzy, Young Olympians
- Science – Living things and their habitats, Animals including humans

**Homework** – we will give homework once a week on a Friday, and collect books back in the following Wednesday. We will usually set maths, spellings and occasionally topic-related homework. Children should complete their Sparx times tables every week just as they did in Year 4. Information about Sparx, including how to login into a child's account is stuck into the homework book. We will mark homework with ticks and a brief comment, and if there are any issues, we will talk to children about these at school. We do expect the children to present their work neatly to the standard they know is expected in their school books.

**PE** – as you are probably aware, PE is on **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. For the time being, children can come to school in their PE kit on PE days.

**Snacks** – we would like your help to promote healthy snacks at break time. Please avoid sending in crisps, biscuits and chocolate bars, or anything containing nuts, and instead encourage the children to eat a piece of fruit, a cereal bar or breadsticks, for example.

**Labelling** – please may we kindly ask that all jumpers, coats, drinks bottles and packed lunch boxes are labelled with your child's name. As we are sure you will appreciate, finding and returning un-named lost property to children can be time consuming.

**E-mails** – Mr Ball can be emailed at [sball@decoyschool.co.uk](mailto:sball@decoyschool.co.uk), Mrs Doets can be reached at [ndoets@decoyschool.co.uk](mailto:ndoets@decoyschool.co.uk), and Mrs Searle at [dsearle@decoyschool.co.uk](mailto:dsearle@decoyschool.co.uk). Please be aware that it is school policy that there is no expectation for staff to respond to emails outside of their working hours. Mrs Searle teaches Owls class on Monday mornings.

Thank you for your support,

Stephen Ball, Natassia Doets and Debbie Searle  
Year 5 Class Teachers