



# Decoy Community Primary School And First Steps Nursery

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**Headteacher:** Mrs Heather Poustie

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find below the information that you will need for the start of 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. Obviously, 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. Instructions for logging in will be written into the front of the reading record. The website for taking quizzes can be found at: <https://ukhosted51.renlearn.co.uk/2236651/default.aspx>.

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** – We are very close to launching our new school website which will contain details of our new whole school curriculum. However, in the meantime, please find a list below of topics being covered in Year 5 this Autumn Term.

- PSHE – Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference
- Art and Design – Pop Art
- Computing – We are Games Developers, We are Cryptographers
- Design and Technology – Building frame structures



- English – Writing dictionaries, stories, non-fiction and poetry
- Geography – Mountains and earthquakes
- History – Ancient Egypt
- Mathematics – Place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, statistics, area and perimeter
- Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish) – Yo Aprendo Espanol, Los Animales
- Music – Arranging and performing *Stand by Me*
- Religious Education – What does it mean for Christians to believe that God is holy and loving? What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?
- Physical Education – Gymnastics sequences, Step to the Beat (aerobics), Fitness Boot Camp, Netball
- Science – Forces, Space

**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 will be 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) and Mrs Doets can be reached at [ndoets@decoyschool.co.uk](mailto:ndoets@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.

Thank you for your support,

Stephen Ball and Natassia Doets

Year 5 Class Teachers