**Welcome to Silver Birch Class!**

Class name: Silver Birch

Teacher: Mrs Ruffy

HLTA: Mrs Kelly

Teaching assistant: Miss Harris

Welcome to Year Five!

This handout will provide you with some information about expectations and routines.

If you have any further questions, you know where we are ☺

**Expectations**

At Heckington St Andrew’s we promote positive approaches to learning. Through embracing the unique personalities and skills of every child, our classroom and learning evolves around the children. All children are supported to be the best they can be and are reminded of the ‘5 Rs’- our school values: Respect, Responsibility, Relationships, Reverence and Relationships. When these values are spotted within class, or across the school, children are celebrated.

We use stickers, lots of verbal praise and a class recognition board. There is also an opportunity for children to earn a Hot Chocolate Friday with Mrs Bentley! In case of any negative or unwanted behaviours arising, children will be communicated with in a respectful manner to support them to identify the causes of their behaviour and discuss ways to move on from this.

For more information on our passionate ethos towards positive management of learning and behaviour in school please see our school behaviour policy.

The children and I have already discussed and agreed what learning should like in Silver Birch and we all agree that we have the same goal- to achieve the best we can and have a great year together.

**Belongings**

The children are responsible for their belongings in Year 5 to promote independence. In order to help them do this, we would appreciate it if everything is named. All the equipment required to access learning in school is provided so there is no need for pencil cases.

Mobile phones- Children in Year 5 are notallowed mobile phones in class. If children are walking home from school and you wish them to have a mobile phone for this purpose, it must be dropped off at the school office in the morning. Under no circumstances are children permitted to bring phones into the classroom or cloakroom.

**Curriculum**

The year 5 learning objectives have been carefully mapped across the year to form 6 different topics. Each topic will explore the wider curriculum in a creative way. Topics range from what is happening in our rainforests to historical studies of Anglo Saxon Britain. Learning will be tailored around relevant current events and pivotal key knowledge that children need to secure in order to move on in their learning in year 6. You will receive a letter telling you all about the topic at the beginning of each half term. Curriculum information and events relating to our topic will be detailed and celebrated on the Silver Birch Class page on the school website [www.heckington.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.heckington.lincs.sch.uk)

**Assessment**

The children are assessed at three checkpoints in the year (Sep, Jan/Feb and May). In Year 5 we use NFER assessments which allow for accurate collection of data to determine children’s progress across core subjects at key points. Their progress will be communicated with you during parents’ evenings and in their end of year reports.

**Homework**

The children in Year 5 will receive Maths and English homework weekly. This may be specific to current classroom themes or linked to the current topic. Children will be given time to discuss and ask questions about homework each Thursday when it is set. Children will be able to add homework information to their reading diary to support their home learning. There is a space for you to sign the reading record weekly to acknowledge and show support of this.

Homework goes out on a Thursday and needs to be returned on the following Tuesday.

**Reading**

I am excited to share some carefully selected books with the children this year that I feel meet their interests and will inspire them. I will post these on the class web page for your information. Reading underpins so much of our learning and your support with home reading is greatly appreciated. Just 20 minutes at home can have a huge impact on children’s learning and development. It may be 20 minutes of a favourite book, a class book, a library book or a graphic novel. Children reading banded books will still be encouraged to access the free reader selection in the school library.

All children will be encouraged to select books for independent reading from the school library and our new reading scheme books. They are reminded to take great care of these, bringing them in to school each day to read or change when necessary. It is helpful if the children keep track of what they have read, signing their diaries each night once they have read.

**Parent Hub and the Parents Evening System**

-Letters (such as the weekly newsletter) come out via Parent Hub but paper copies of all letters are available from the office.

-Parents evening, clubs and tickets for our performances can all be booked using the Parents Evening System. The office staff can support you with any issues with either of these systems.

**Snacks/water**

-Children in Key Stage Two should bring their own snack to school and this should be a piece of fruit or a vegetable.

-Children can access their water bottles at all times during the day, apart from during the lesson input. If your child needs a water bottle, they can be purchased from the office. We would appreciate it if water bottles weren’t screw tops as we have fewer spillages with ‘sports cap’ bottles and the bottles with flick up straws. Children can only drink water in the classroom; they are not allowed to drink juice. Squash and juice are fine for children’s lunch time drinks.

**P.E.**

-We have P.E. on a Friday (outdoor) and a Wednesday (indoor) this term. We would appreciate it if all items in the P.E. kit were named.

-Children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school, apart from one pair of stud earrings. The children must be able to take these out on their own for P.E. lessons.

**Routines**

-At the beginning of the school day, the first bell signals the children to come to line up and say goodbye. You are welcome to stand at the back of the playground to wave them off. On the second bell, the class goes into school.

-If you have a quick message or concern, you can catch us on the playground in the morning before the bell goes. Otherwise, please make an appointment at the office: Mrs Ruffy can be available on Thursday for longer chats if needed.

If you want to know more about anything mentioned above, all our policies (behaviour, uniform etc) can be found on our website, or feel free to come into the office for a hard copy.

Our class page on the school website is updated with relevant information to support your child’s learning at home and to inform you of any new topics as we approach each new term. Year Five also have a twitter account if you would like to see snippets of our day in school! (@MrsRuffy\_HSA)

Thank you for your continued support!

The Silver Birch Team