



Year 5/6 Welcome Letter - September 2021



General Information

A very warm welcome back to school to Year Five and Six – Falcon Class. I hope you have all had a lovely summer and are feeling excited for the new school year. I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year, helping your child to learn through meaningful, creative and practical experiences. Supporting us on this learning journey is Mrs Horton, our Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA). There will also be occasions where Mrs Manship (HLTA) will join us as well.

Your support with your child's learning and development is invaluable and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance. As a partnership (home and school), we will be able to help your child reach their full potential and support them to invest in their own learning. Your child, their learning and wellbeing are of upmost importance to all of us. We care about helping them grow as individuals, as a team, as well as their academic progress.

Both Miss Juden and I are excited about joining together for collaborative sessions, as well as ensuring the children have time as individual year groups. It is important to us that we create our own class communities as Falcons and Kingfishers, but that we also maintain those links between classes for existing friendships to still flourish. On the timetable included, you will see how we have mapped in opportunities for this. This will be explained further during our Welcome Meeting.

We have also started to arrange a residential experience for the end of May. In the past, this has been an experience offered to Year 5 and Year 6. However, with the merging of the classes, it has been a great opportunity for us to look at running a larger residential where Year 4, 5 and 6 will be able to experience this together. This will be at Great Wood, where the children will take part in a range of outdoor adventurous activities. More information on this residential will follow this term.

Key Information

Falcon Projects: There are some fascinating enquiry projects for Falcons this year. We have begun with a mini project, 'What do you want to know?' This has been a great way for the children to share more about themselves and develop stronger friendships. This is followed by an English based project; 'Who will you side with?' This involves a book study on 'The Island,' by Armin Greder. Children will explore the issues raised and work on their journalism skills. The back of the classroom has been changed into a journalists station; complete with type writer, laptop and dictaphone to support their investigations further.

Armin Greder
THE ISLAND



In Maths, we have started the term developing our place value skills. This includes not only reading, writing and comparing millions numbers, but also rounding, working with negative numbers and showing our understanding of Roman numerals. More information on our enquiry projects in Falcons can be found on the school website.

Forest School: As Falcons, we are very lucky to have the Forest School area as one of our outdoor spaces. The previous Year 6 children did a lot of work to improve the space, which I know Falcons are looking forward to continue. This is a great place to play but also conduct Forest School activities which we will carry out on a Friday with Kingfishers. It is important that children have wellies and coats in school every day so that they can use this area at any time.

PE: These sessions will take place on a Tuesday and Friday afternoon. We will be in the hall on a Tuesday where we will be carrying out Yoga and outside on a Friday carrying out Forest School and team building activities. Please remind your child to have their PE kit in school on those days. A reminder of our school PE kit is on the school website. As well as this, we will have daily movement breaks and use our school running track to keep active.

Uniform: As role models for younger children, it is important that they set a good example. Please ensure that your child is wearing the appropriate clothing and footwear. For those children who have their ears pierced, it should be plain studs, which will need to be removed or covered with tape during PE. Other than a watch or medic alert bracelet, there should be no other jewellery/accessories. Any child with longer hair needs to have their hair tied back. In addition to our standard school uniform, you may wish to provide your child with an oversized shirt to use as an Art apron. Please see the school website for a reminder on our uniform.

Communication: I think it is important that there are strong communication links between us. Class Dojo messages and emails have been brilliant this past year in helping us maintain those links. I am delighted that we will be able to see each other again on the playground at the end of the school day, but the use of Class Dojo messages and emails will continue to be our main forms of communication. This ensures that I can focus on making sure that children are released safely at the end of the day, as well as supporting children with this transition period. If you need to discuss any issues, concerns or general queries further, then I will be happy to arrange a phone call or meeting. Thank you for your understanding and I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Behaviour expectations: Already this term, we have worked on remembering and re-establishing our school rules (Ready, Respectful and Safe) and learning behaviours (Accuracy, Resilience, Collaboration, Independence and Reflection). Children will continue to earn Class Dojo points when they are seen to be going above and beyond the standard expectations. This may be in pieces of work they produce; answers they give and how they conduct themselves around the school.



Home Learning: It is important that children's learning habits get off to a good start. In school, we will establish and maintain a routine to meet all children's needs and promote curiosity, engagement and success. Upper Key Stage 2 is an important stage in your child's primary journey and it is essential that children complete the home learning set. We understand that children have other commitments as well as a need time to switch off, which is why we have created a whole school home learning timetable to support their continued learning and engage them through the choices on offer.

Home learning will be set each week (unless stated otherwise) on a **Wednesday** and will need to be completed and shared by **Tuesday morning**. Their home learning will be shared on the **class page** on the **school website**.

St Aldhelm's Home Learning Autumn 1 2021



Weekly skills practice as a minimum
Read and Respond for 10-15 minutes four times
Spelling Shed for 5 minutes 3 times
Times Tables Rockstars for 5 minutes 3 times per week

as well as

Choose one pick and mix activity each week		
Any highlighted yellow (Hotspot activity) must be completed during this term		
Spelling	Science	RE Reflection
Grammar / Writing	Maths	Art or DT
PE	Enquiry	Enquiry
Reading	Wellbeing	PSHE
Completed	+ Each Tuesday, submit the activity as a portfolio on your child's profile on Class Dojo using the blue add sign. Remember, your child will need to be on their profile on Class Dojo to do this.	

Children will have three lists of spellings set for them and checked fortnightly. Two of these lists will be taught spellings from work in class and one of these will be a revision list. Times Tables Rockstars will also be checked fortnightly. Weekly, I will check the children's reading records and discuss their reading and responses with them. This will also be when I look at the work from the pick and mix tasks your child will have submitted on their Class Dojo portfolio. These pick and mix tasks above will have an activity set under each of the subject titles.

I am looking forward to meeting you next week at our Welcome Meeting (Wednesday 15th September at 3.30pm) in the Falcon classroom and working with you throughout the year.

Claire Newman

Year 5/6 Falcons Example Timetable

	8.45 – 9.05	9.05 – 9.30	9.30 - 10	10 – 11	Break	11.15 – 12.15	Lunch	1.15 – 1.50	1.50 – 3.05	3.05 – 3.25
Monday	Settle task: Mrs Newman's Number	9.05 – 9.30 Worship: Life in all its fullness	Whole Class Reading VIPERS	Writing		Maths		Spelling and Handwriting	Project (with computer use available)	Class Story
Tuesday	Settle task: Word of the Week	9.05 – 9.30 Worship	9.45 – 11am Science Y6 (separate session) Science Y5 (separate session)			Maths		1.25 – 2pm Project		2 – 3pm PE - Yoga
Wednesday	Worship task	Whole Class Reading VIPERS	Mrs Horton HLTA SENDCo Cover Spelling Shed Times Tables Rockstars Computing		Break	Mrs Horton HLTA SENDCo Cover Maths Investigation	Lunch	Spelling Investigation	RE	Class Story
Thursday	Settle task: Word of the Week	Whole Class Reading VIPERS		Maths		Writing		SPaG Investigation	Mrs Horton HLTA cover for PPA Art – Andy Warhol and Pop Art	Class Story
Friday	Settle task: Mrs N's Number	9.05 – 9.30 Singing 9.35 – 10 Whole Class Reading VIPERS		Problem Solving Maths (Y5/6)		Y6 PSHE (separate session) Y5 PSHE (separate session)		Spelling and Handwriting	2 – 3pm PE: Team Building Games (Y4/5/6)	Class Story