



Year 5/6 Welcome Letter - September 2023



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 continue working with previous Falcon families, as well as those of you new to Falcons this academic year, helping your child to learn through meaningful, creative and practical experiences. Supporting us on this learning journey is Mrs Manship, our Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA).

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. This helps them to develop their independence and tackle new challenges with confidence.

Both Miss Juden and I are excited about continuing our successful work from the previous years with our mixed classes. We will continue to provide opportunities throughout the year for us to join 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. We have found that having our weekly PSHE lessons split into individual year groups for particular units has been successful and well received by the children. We will continue with this as the children have shared how much they have enjoyed this time.

Key Information



Falcon Projects: There are some fascinating enquiry projects for Falcons this year. We have begun with an English based project; 'Fantastical, magical, revolutionary: Where would you choose to live?' This involves a book study using 'The House at the Edge of Magic,' by Amy Sparkes. Children will explore the fantasy genre which links with our DT construction work. As well as this, we will be carrying out a longer focus on Victorian Somerset, exploring what it was like in Doultling and the surrounding area. We will be exploring the local area looking for evidence left behind, as well as working with villagers and the church to uncover more.

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. We have three Maths lessons a week where we split into

individual year groups. Year 6 are taught by me and Year 5 are taught by Mrs Cohen. This proved very successful last year.

More information on our enquiry projects in Falcons can be found on the school website. Please do also check out and feel free to comment on pictures and videos of Falcons' learning on Class Dojo.



Kilve Residential: As you will know, we have arranged a residential for the end of February. Running a larger residential every other year, where Year 4, 5 and 6 will be able to experience this together, has been a brilliant experience; we look forward to providing this opportunity again. This will be at Kilve, where the children will take part in a range of outdoor adventurous activities. More information on this residential will follow once the deposit has been paid and we can guarantee we have sufficient interest to run this experience. Please remember that the **£50 deposit** needs to be paid via School Gateway by **Friday 15th September**.

Uniform: As role models for younger children, it is important that Falcons set a good example. Please ensure that your child is wearing the appropriate clothing and footwear. It is also important that children have wellies and coats in school every day so that they can use all areas of the school, including the Forest School area.

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 / bands / 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.



PE: For Autumn, these sessions will take place on a **Thursday and Friday morning**. On a Thursday, the children will be carrying out Dance with Mrs Manship. On Friday, I will be working with the children to develop a range of collaboration skills through our 'Social Distance' unit.



Meetings: I think it is important that there are strong communication links between us. Class Dojo messages, emails and messages through the School Office have been brilliant in helping us maintain those links. Although we will be able to see each other on the playground at the end of the school day, 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. If you are sharing information about

attendance or something for that same day, please contact the School Office. This is because I may not always get the chance to check emails/Class Dojo messages before the end of the school day. 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. Please do interact using Class Dojo, I know the children in previous years have enjoyed this function and have used it respectfully.



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 to have time to switch off, which is why we continually review our home learning systems. Although home learning may not be the activity your child would choose to do, it is important that children maintain regular practise of certain skills and that they are prepared for the increase in home learning that happens at secondary school. Below is an overview of the expectations. This will be set every Wednesday and collected/marked Tuesday.

Read and Respond (weekly)	Reading is a vital skill and we encourage children to read and respond to their reading at least 4 times a week . It will help your child's skills to continue to develop if they could do as many of the responses as possible and vary the type they use.
Spelling (weekly)	One spelling list will be set each week . Children are expected to complete 6 games . This is set so that you can see how many games are completed. Children can go over the 6 if they would like to.
Times Tables (weekly)	Children will be expected to complete 15 minutes on Times Tables Rockstars a week . This is set so that you can see how many minutes out of the 15 have been completed. Again, children can go over the 15 if they wish.
Additional Tasks (weekly)	Falcons will be having additional tasks set a week. Year 5 will have one additional task and Year 6 will have two. These will be linked to the learning happening in class. More information about this will be shared nearer the time.

I am looking forward to meeting you at our Welcome Meeting (**Monday 11th September at 3.30pm**) and working with you throughout the year.

Kind regards,

Claire Newman

Falcons Usual Timetable Autumn Term 1 2023 - 2024

	8.45 – 9.15am	9.05 – 10.45am	10.45 – 11am KS2 break	11 – 12pm	12-1pm children's lunch	1 – 1.45pm	1.30 – 3pm	3 – 3.25pm
Monday	Flashback 4	9.15 – 10.45am Y6 Maths (CN) Y5 Maths (PC)		Reading/Writing		Mood Buster (5 mins) Split SPaG session	Enquiry / DT	Class Worship: Learning Together for Life in all its Fullness 10:10 (
Tuesday	8.45 – 10am Reading 9.05 – 9.30am Key Stage Worship	10 – 11am Writing		Y6 Maths (CN) Y5 Maths (PC)		Mood Buster (5 mins) Split SPaG session	RE	Class Book: The House at the Edge of Magic Reading: Vocabulary Finder
Wednesday	Flashback 4 9.05 – 9.30am Whole School Worship	10 – 11am Writing		Y6 Maths (CN) Y5 Maths (PC)		RM PPA Cover Mood Buster (5 mins) Spelling Shed Task	RM PPA Cover Reading: Book discussion and share	RM PPA Cover Music PPA Book: Short stories
Thursday	RM SENDCo Cover 8.45 – 9.05am Spelling Shed Task 9.05 – 9.30am Class worship: follow- up task	RM SENDCo Cover PE		RM SENDCo Cover Computing		Mood Buster (5 mins) Reading	1.45 – 2.45pm Maths Split with CN	Class Book: The House at the Edge of Magic
Friday	8.45 – 9.45am Times Tables Task 9.05 – 9.30am Morning Praise: singing	PE		Science		French	1.45 – 2.15pm Enquiry 2.15 – 3.15pm PSHE (whole class)	Class Book: The House at the Edge of Magic