



Razorbills Class
Year 6 Welcome Letter
Autumn Term 2021

September 2021

Dear parents/carers and razorbills,

Welcome back everyone! I hope you've had a marvellous Summer break and are ready for our first term in Razorbills Class, Year 6. This term we are building on our learning-to-learn skills and reflecting on our CHARACTER VIRTUES with our new topic - DYNAMIC DYNASTIES - a topic focusing on the *Shang Dynasty* in ancient China. This is a taster of some of our *big ideas* and *enquiry questions*:

- ★ Fu Hao was a *changemaker*. True or False? Explain.
- ★ Would you rather have *cowries* or *bronze* in ancient China?
- ★ Confucius said, 'Roads were made for journeys, not destinations'. Agree or disagree. Explain.
- ★ What was more precious: jade or the Yellow River?

Please see the term curriculum [coverage] map on Google Classroom for a greater learning overview.

I am pleased to share that in Razorbills Class, Mr Pleasance and I will be team-teaching with specialist teaching from Miss Overney for Spanish and Ms Russell for Music and for preparation with our exciting Christmas production. Details and scripts will be shared later this term for children to reflect on which parts they would like to have a go with and to practise the songs - so they know them off-by-heart.

Important date:

Looking ahead to the new term and year, I will be having a '**Welcome Meeting**' at **2:30pm on Tuesday 21st September in Class 6**, so that you can see the classroom and I can share some of the expectations of the year ahead.

Timetable:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mrs Simpson and Miss Overney (Spanish)	Mrs Simpson and Miss Gibson PE Day	Mrs Simpson	Mrs Simpson	Mrs Simpson and Mrs Holmes PE Day (Swimming from 17th Sept).

Timetable and routines

- ★ **Drop off - 8:40am:** children will come into class independently. PLEASE aim to get there promptly as the **register will be taken at 8:50am**. Any late arrivals will need to go to the office in the first instance to register and then come to class.
- ★ **Pick-up - 3:15pm** on the top playground, unless we have agreed other arrangements directly with myself or Mr Pleasance for anyone walking home independently.
- ★ **Morning and After School Club** - please liaise directly with the office team on 01271 870551 for more details as these are subject to changes.
- ★ **PE** - **children are to come to school on Tuesday and Friday in their PE kits**, but have a spare kit in case they are wet or muddy.
- ★ **Lunchtime** - packed lunches will be kept in children's rucksacks in Class 6 and eaten in the canteen or outdoors, with weather permitting. All school meals will be eaten in the canteen with a play time before eating. After lunch, the children will have plenty of time for toileting, more drinks and playing.
- ★ **SWIMMING learning starts on Friday 17th September**. All are to attend unless a doctor's note has been supplied. Please look out for an email about swimming.
- ★ **RED Home School Diaries** - these have been handed out this week in class and the expectations shared. I am happy for the children to record their reading journey with the addition of a personal dictionary and word class bank on the inside back cover to help them *magpie* in class.

Home Learning

We will continue to have literacy and/or topic-themed learning PLUS a maths task posted on **Google Classroom** each Friday and the hand-in date is the following Wednesday, when it will have a comment from me, a peer OR celebrated and shared in class.

There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.

- Jacqueline Kennedy

Thank you for your continued support in Year 5 with sharing a book daily - it does make a REAL difference and it's clear to see their love of reading and books growing. Last term - more than ever - the children have been showing a true growth mindset to improve their reading skills, strive to read a greater range of texts and more importantly help each other share their reading strategies to tackle unfamiliar vocabulary and to read for meaning. These are important life skills and coupled with fluency are essential to help empower the children to understand the world around them. Every minute matters: listen to audiobooks in the car; show how you enjoy a book when at home on a rainy day, flick through a magazine or scan a menu together, share the Newsround webpage or explore an atlas and hunt for cities, the equator or forests.

To support your child with their reading in class, some will share a levelled book or a free-reader book one-to-one once a week with Mr Pleasance or me, but they will also have plenty of opportunities to share a class story or picture book with their peers, as this also helps fluency and

expression. Some children may have an opportunity to share a book again and again to build fluency and word recognition, so their reading flows and it empowers them to *read for meaning*, rather than simply decoding (reading and saying the phonemes [sounds]). Please remember that sharing a book for 10-15 minutes up to seven times a week at home makes such an impression on your child. Please don't worry if your child wants to *re-read* known books, e.g. The Snail and the Whale or Harry Potter. This is a brilliant opportunity to practise word recognition and expression, especially when there is dialogue. The familiarity will help boost their understanding of sentence composition and a love of reading as they feel confident and can make predictions about the text. Please encourage them.

Looking ahead to the next few weeks, we will be focusing on the children's mindfulness skills and learning to learn skills. Plus, looking ahead to some termly quizzes, so we can best support your child in this important year ahead. This I hope will empower them to take responsibility for their personal learning journey. In addition, Mr Pleasance and I will continue to review the children's reading skills and I will continue to make personal invitations for a reading pop-up Google MEET video session for parents with more top tips to support you at home. I will be contacting you individually or if you would value this, please do not hesitate to let me know. We're happy to help.

Our classroom, rules and expectations:

- ★ The classroom will be organised as safely as possible for movement and safe distancing where possible.
- ★ Each child can bring their own **pencil case** with a blue handwriting pen, pencil, pencil sharpener with shavings case and a quality glue stick. The school will provide rulers, highlighters and coloured pencils.
- ★ Each child needs a Woolacombe School water bottle EVERY DAY - clearly named. These will be taken home each day for cleaning. **Hydration is essential!** There is no water fountain at school now due to COVID and new hand washing facilities have been installed, so a water bottle (no squash or sugar-free fruit juices are allowed) is essential.
- ★ A healthy snack (no crisps, chocolate bars or sweets) as there's NO Tuck Shop available for fruit or toast yet. *Snacks are to be put into rucksacks and not lunch boxes. We are aiming to reduce single-use plastic in school due to some litter.*
- ★ A uniform list was emailed last week from Mrs Holmes. However, due to the classroom being well-ventilated, an underlayer or vest is recommended and no bare legs for those who feel the cold when the weather changes.
- ★ School shoes (not boots) or **ALL black** trainers are to be worn. No brightly coloured trainers and if they have laces, please endeavor to help them to learn to tie them independently.
- ★ Hair and long fringes to be completely tied back with non-fussy hair ties, hair dye/highlights and NO hair products for girls and boys.
- ★ NO nail varnish, semi-permanent tattoos or jewellery. Earring studs are allowed, but the children must not wear them on PE days - in line with the DEVON PE recommendations.
- ★ Packed lunch boxes (clearly named) to be stored in the school rucksacks in the class cloakroom. No plastic bags at this stage, as we are aiming to minimise our use of single-use plastics.
- ★ **SUN ALERT** - please apply a robust sun cream before coming to school, e.g. ONCE brands,

and bring a named cap to protect the head, face and possibly neck when outdoors.

★ **PE is on Tuesday and Friday each week.** The children are expected to bring their PE kit to school - joggers or **black underlayers** are essential on colder days. A spare PE kit is also needed to change into, should the weather change or they get muddy playing games. A spare pair of shoes is essential to help keep the school environment clean. These do not need to be trainers. I do not have spare shoes in class and there is nothing worse than soggy feet!

★ **School lunches** need to be ordered the day prior to eating using the SchoolMoney Payment system on the website homepage. If they have no lunch ordered, the school kitchen will organise a hot meal and you will be informed and charged accordingly. Please remember to share with your child what they are having so they are emotionally prepared and understand their choice that you have discussed together. If your child is a *fussy eater*, please select school meals that will be enjoyed, as they need fuel for the rest of the day and their learning. Also, a good breakfast is paramount, so please make sure that your child starts the day well with a good breakfast, as without, it can affect their experience in class.

★ Personal resources or items are discouraged from being brought in from home (COVID considerations), unless arranged with the teaching team.

★ A **warm water-proof coat is essential** to optimise the outdoor learning space as much as possible. We do NOT have spare coats in class, but in these times, fresh air is essential for mental and physical well-being.

★ We will be ensuring that our classroom is a safe space for all. This includes: staying at your desk, respecting social distancing where possible and others' resources, regular handwashing, and considerate movement around the school grounds.

Please remember to look on Google Classroom for any updates and learning opportunities. For new parents, your child's new Alumnis email address will be created and shared ASAP. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via email on s.simpson@alumnismat.org where I will do my best to respond ASAP, but I will not be able to respond during the teaching day with the children. If urgent, please contact the office team on 01271 870551 and they will be able to share with the Year 6 Teaching Team when appropriate. Thank you for your continued support and let's make this term supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Mrs Simpson and Mr Pleasance

