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5<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Dear Parents and Carers

### Welcome to Class 5

Welcome back after the summer holiday, I hope the children have enjoyed their first days back at school. This letter is to let you know what we will be doing in class over the next few weeks and how you can help your child this year.

Our main Literacy project for the weeks through autumn and leading up to Christmas will be 'Dragons'. We will be linking lots of our literacy work to this theme; writing reports about how to care for pet dragons, creating instructions for spells or recipes to keep them healthy, looking at longer pieces of narrative poetry, looking at descriptions of dragons across a range of literature and taking part in drama work around the story of *George and the Dragon*.

In science we will be looking at two of the new national curriculum topics. The first of these, 'Evolution and Inheritance', will focus on how fossils are made, how species are suited to their environments and how offspring are similar/different to their parents. As part of this topic it would be great if children could bring in photographs of their families (parents/ siblings/ grandparents/ aunts/ uncles etc.) to create a family tree and so that they can look at how they have similarities and differences. If this is a problem for any reason then they will be able to use a set of given photographs instead. The children will also be creating their own dragon, thinking about how it would be suited to a certain environment.

In history we will be looking at Castles. Who first built castles in Britain, why they were built, where they were built and why their designs changed over time. This will also involve geographical skills.

Our art project will be sculpture and children will be studying the elements of sculpture, working with a range of materials, looking at famous sculptors, gathering a range of sculpture ideas and finally creating a sculpted piece of their own on a theme of nature.

The children will have note books to record any homework that they are given. These will also, eventually, contain a timetable so children know roughly what to expect each day. In most cases there will at least be maths homework given out on a Friday. There will be spellings each week, given out on a Monday and tested on Friday. It is important that spellings are learned to help with reading and writing. It is also vital that children learn their times tables, since they help with so many other aspects of maths. Children will be allocated a reading box to select books from in school and it is still extremely important that you continue to read and share books with your child, whether they are reading independently or particularly if they are struggling to read.

If you have any questions, are worried about anything, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to help.

Yours faithfully  
Miss Lorna Burrow (Class 5 teacher)