

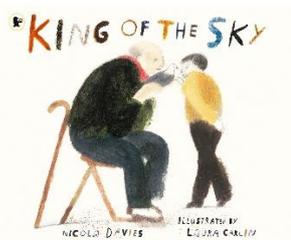


September 4<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Year 5/4

The aim of this letter is to provide the parents / guardians with information about your child's learning and ways in which you can support them at home.



## Belonging

### Themes

Our whole school focus for the academic year stems from an Eleanor Roosevelt quote, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." To begin this term we will focus on 'Belong.' The children will be engaged in a number of rich task activities (literacy / numeracy and digital skills) using the book 'King of the Sky' by Nicola Davies as a starting point. It is a moving tale about loneliness, belonging and home. Starting a new life in a new country, a young boy feels lost and alone – till he meets an old man who keeps racing pigeons. Together they pin their dreams on a race across Europe and the special bird they hope can win it: King of the Sky.

The book will allow opportunities to develop an understanding of Health and Emotional Well-being, linked to relationships and feelings. As a school who

promotes the UNCRC across the curriculum, the book offers a positive view of immigration and how change does not need to be for the worse.

'King of the Sky' tells the story of two journeys and will be using maps to provide opportunities for the development of geographical skills.

The children will also research the reasons for the Italian families moving to Wales in the 1920's and 1930's. This will support studies of their local communities and their history as part of the Curriculum Cymreig.

## **Skills**

There will be a big focus on developing independence and positive attitudes to learning in line with our work on developing the new curriculum for Wales.

We will focus on the four purposes of the new Curriculum for Wales, which are:

- *Ambitious, capable learners*
- *Enterprising, creative contributors*
- *Ethical, informed citizens*
- *Healthy, confident individuals*

We will continue to explore a range of Values and further develop our understanding of the UNCRC through our theme work.

Skills in Literacy and Numeracy will be developed through all areas of the curriculum. Language and Mathematics skills will continue to be taught and developed. Reciprocal Reading approaches will continue to be used to teach and develop reading skills.

All children have access to a large range of reading materials including fiction, non-fiction in a range of genres and also newspapers, comic books, magazines

and graphic novels that the children will be encouraged to borrow through our library scheme.

Your child will be invited to choose a library book on a Friday to bring home for the week. Please encourage them to read or listen to you read and discuss the book. This book should only be returned on a **Friday**.

In order to allow individual reading opportunities throughout the school day the children will choose another book which will be kept in school.

### Language

Learning and using languages connects us with people, places and communities. The Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience is designed to equip learners, as citizens of a bilingual Wales. We will be engaging in meaningful learning experiences in a bilingual context that go hand in hand with learning about one's own cultural identity. You can support your child at home by encouraging them to watch Welsh programmes (e.g [bbcbitesize.com](http://bbcbitesize.com)), using Welsh language and bilingual Apps and reading Welsh text.

### **Communication**

Details about our learning will be available via our monthly class newsletter/blog which will be uploaded to the class page on our school website: [www.swansea-edunet.gov.uk/en/schools/Glyncollen](http://www.swansea-edunet.gov.uk/en/schools/Glyncollen). If you require a paper copy please let me know. Join us also on twitter for regular class updates [@GlyncollenYr5\\_4](https://twitter.com/GlyncollenYr5_4).

Glyncollen Primary operates on open door policy, where parents and visitors are welcomed into the school. In the current situation, it will not be possible to continue this practise. Parents and visitors will not be permitted to enter the

school building unless by prior appointment for urgent issues only. If you need to speak to a member of staff, you will be required to make a phone appointment via the school office.

### **Medical needs**

If your child has any on-going or newly identified medical needs that may require intervention, monitoring or medication whilst at school please let me know as soon as possible – this includes asthma and you will be required to check and update information on the Asthma plan held at school.

We continue to be a nut free school due to a number of pupils with a severe nut allergy. Please ensure that all lunchboxes are nut free.

**Fruit snack:** Fruit snack may be brought to school each day. Crisps, cereal bars or chocolate are not permitted during break time.

**Water bottle:** Please send a labelled water bottle each day which your child will be permitted to refill when needed. These must go home with your child every night.

**Pencil cases:** Please can you ensure that your child brings to school a pencil case with a blue pen, a pencil and if possible a sharpener, rubber, ruler and set of coloured pencils. Children will not be permitted to share their personal equipment with anyone else.

**Drop off and collection:** All children must be accompanied by an adult for drop off and collection to ensure social distancing is adhered to. We will inform you when this changes and children are allowed to again walk to and from school unaccompanied.

**Mobile phones:** Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school for the foreseeable future.

### **Weekly Reminders**

**Tuesday:** PE kit required – white t-shirt and black leggings or tracksuit bottoms and trainers. Due to current restrictions these must be worn to school on the day, as changing clothes is not currently permitted.

**Thursday:** Outdoor learning – Children to come dressed in old outdoor clothing on a Thursday. A water-proof coat and waterproof trousers (if available) and a spare old pair of trainers / wellies to be brought to school in a labelled bag. Please ensure that your child has a change of shoes as they are likely to get muddy. All waterproofs and outdoor shoes will be sent home at the end of the day.

**Home tasks:** Home tasks will be given as and when necessary, however it is far more beneficial for your child to focus on developing what is important for them individually. Children should be encouraged to complete regular self-directed homework based on their own needs, with a focus on improving reading and recall of number facts. It is important that they have a confident, quick recall of number facts – addition and subtraction facts and multiplication tables. Spelling words will be sent home where relevant following a termly whole class spelling test.

**Reading:** Please encourage your child to read at home. Reading can take many forms depending on your child's interests but variety of materials should be encouraged. Please become actively involved in discussing your child's reading with them. This will help to develop higher reading skills such as

*inference and deduction. Reading books/ texts are available from the class library, which the children are able to access at any time.*

### *Dates for the diary*

*Transition: Due to the current Covid Restrictions transition activities for year 6 and 5 have not yet been confirmed by the comprehensive schools. We will forward any relevant details to you as soon as they become available.*

*I look forward to working with you over the coming year and to share in your child/children's learning and achievements.*

*Kind Regards*

*Mrs S Davies*

*Year 5/4 Class Teacher*