Dear Jaguar Class children, parents and carers,

Welcome to another term at RET. We hope you all had a restful and well-deserved break. We are looking forward to another fun-filled term as we explore the whole school value of 'Compassion'. We are particularly looking forward to our trip in the afternoon of 18th November to the Bristol Life Skills Centre.

Our key enquiry question is, ***What is gender equality?*** (Please see our topic web on the school website for more information).

Class teacher is Tom and Learning Support Worker is Anabelle across both classes. Silvia will teach on Tuesdays from 11.30am until the end of the day.

Important Dates:

- Our assessment week for this term is the week beginning Monday 23rd November
- Any other important dates for the term will be confirmed on class Dojo (will be communicated on Class Dojo).

Drop off and pick up

Please drop your children off at the gates between 8.40am and 8:50am, registers are taken promptly at 8:50am and morning work begins as soon as the children come into the classroom.

Please collect children at 3:10pm from the gazebo on the playground.

Class Expectations

- We are continuing to practise our Redfield Way this year, and will always aim to be kind, safe and ready. We are so excited to share and celebrate our Year 6 achievements, both in school and at home.
- We won't have a designated 'show and tell' time in class, but if you have an achievement or piece of learning from out of school that you are excited to share, we would love to see it – you can bring it in or send a picture/video on Class Dojo to share in class.
- Please **don't bring in toys** or stationery from home – we have lots in school and it can be upsetting if special possessions get lost or broken. If you are bringing something in for the day to share, please let me know so that we can keep it somewhere safe.

PE

- Our PE days are Wednesdays (swimming) and Thursdays (outdoor).
- Please ensure children come to school on those days wearing clothing and suitable footwear (trainers, t-shirt, leggings, joggers or shorts).
- Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school every day.

Spelling

- We are moving to the Unlocking Letters and Sounds programme of learning for our spellings this year so please keep an eye on our Class Dojo page for Term 2's spelling list.
- Spelling tests will take place on a Friday morning.
- Each week's list of words will likely be linked to a spelling rule and will be taught in lessons throughout the week.

Reading

- Reading at home can have a huge effect on children's progress, as well as encouraging them to read for pleasure.
- All children will bring reading books home from school, and they may have books of their own choice from home or the public library that they choose to read.
- Children should read independently or to an adult at least 5 times a week for 10 minutes.
- Please focus on comprehension questions and their overall understanding of a text.
- If your child mainly reads on their own, it is helpful to talk to them about what they're reading and ask them to summarise what they have read so far.
- We will be changing books from the library throughout the week.

Times Tables

- In Year 5, we focus on fluency of all our times tables.
- We practise times tables frequently in school but any extra practise at home is always useful – they provide the building blocks for lots of our maths, so it really builds children's confidence to be fluent in their times tables.
- A little practise each day makes a huge amount of difference and there are lots of times table apps that can be used for this. *Hit the Button* website, *White Rose 1 minute maths* and *Times table Rockstars*

Communication

- Class Dojo is the easiest way to contact us. We aim to reply to messages within 2 working days.
- Please don't use Class Dojo for emergency messages as we cannot check them while teaching or in meetings. Continue to call the office for emergency messages.
- A member of the Year 5 team will be available on the playground at 3.15pm every day. We are happy to catch up for an informal chat then and can arrange a meeting for longer conversations – we will aim to arrange meetings within a week.
- We will send out all school messages through Class Dojo, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are having trouble accessing your account. We will also update Class Dojo with news about our learning in class and photos of the children's work.
- The school website will be updated termly to share topics maps, spelling lists and any additional resources that can support learning at home.

Can you help?

- We would like to build a directory of skills or expertise that our families would be willing to volunteer in school.
- Please could you let us know if you would like to support in school and have a particular skill (for example an art technique or drama experience) or area of expertise that you would be willing to talk about (such as a career, religion, or knowledge of a different country or culture).
- We would love to involve as many families as possible in our learning, and year groups across the school may ask to draw on your expertise.
- If you are interested in and able to support on trips or visits this year, we would also love to hear from you.