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Headteacher: Mr M. Barnes

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Dear parents and guardians,

### **Personal Projects**

The Year 5s have now chosen the subject area for their personal project and are now ready to get started on them. As this is their second or third time of doing a personal project, most children are clear about how they are going to tackle this term's project and are well underway. However, in case you need more information or advice on how you can help your child at home, I thought the following 'frequently asked questions' might be useful:

#### **Why do the children do a personal project?**

The aim of the project is to give children a chance to study something they are really interested in. They get to choose what to learn about and how to present it, helping to build up those important independent study skills.

#### **What should the project be about?**

When the children were choosing the subject-matter for their project, I emphasised that, first and foremost, it should be about something that they are particularly interested in. In addition, it should ideally be about something that children can easily find out about - it is really helpful if they already have books or other resources on the subject.

#### **Do we need access to a computer/the internet?**

No. Children can do a great project without it. The work does not need to be word-processed, and sometimes, websites can be overwhelming with the amount of information they contain. For certain subjects, many websites are not very 'child-friendly' - the children can't understand what they are reading, and they would be better off with a child's book on the subject. I have asked the children not to simply include 'printed-off' web pages as part of their project.

#### **What sort of folder do we need?**

This is up to the children, but you do not need to go out and buy a special folder. Big, lever-arch folders are not ideal, because they are bulky and difficult to store. A ring binder, a display folder or a scrap book are ideal. If there is a problem, I can provide a card 'manila' folder for children to keep their work in.

#### **How should it be presented?**

Again, this is for the children to choose. I have spoken to them about presenting work in an interesting (but neat and legible!) way. Most children are planning to split their work into different chapters or sections. Work can be handwritten (pen or pencil - it's their choice) or word processed. They can use paper or card of their choice and can include photos, drawings, diagrams, tables etc.

**Does all the work have to be done at home?**

I would expect most of the project to be done as homework, but there will be some opportunities for the children to work on it at school. I am collecting in work each week to ensure that the children are keeping 'on track' with the project.

**Can wordsearches and games be included?**

Yes, but these should be a minor part of the project! I have suggested to the children that, if they want them, they should include no more than 3 things for a 'fun and games' section.

**How can I help my child with the project?**

I want the children to see the project as theirs and hope that they can work independently on much of it. Please don't do it for them! However, advice and encouragement from you and taking an interest in the project will help the children. You could give advice on 'what to do next'; help them out if they are trying to take notes from a book; encourage a visit to the local library to find books; check they have something to 'hand in' as homework and talk to them about how the project is going. Please discourage your child from merely printing off information from websites!

**When does it need to be finished?**

I will collect completed projects during the penultimate week of this term (week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> March).

I hope this has been useful. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to come in and speak to me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Aldren