

Dear Parents/ carers,

Welcome back to the Autumn term. I have loved everyone's upbeat and determined attitudes during the first week back. We have enjoyed a few 'settling in' activities as well as making an impressive start to our WW1 topic. Contributions from parents are greatly welcomed as we find that they often enhance the children's educational experience. If you feel like you would wish to share any knowledge or stories that you may have on the topic of WW1 then we would love to hear from you.

Well done to all of those who volunteered for 'class jobs'. We were very impressed with how confidently everyone spoke and their use of persuasive language! If your child does not get their preferred role this time, there will be many other opportunities throughout the school year as we change roles around.

You will find below some key information that you may find useful.

PE

Our PE days are Wednesday and Thursday. Sessions will be outdoors as much as possible, hopefully we will have nice weather but please be prepared for cooler and wetter conditions with hats and gloves as appropriate. We will also be undertaking swimming in November. More information will follow closer to the time.

Homework

Children will receive homework most weeks. Normally, they will be given a small amount of Maths and English homework on Fridays which should be returned by Thursday the following week. The homework will be tailored to the work that your child has been completing that week, so that they should be able to work independently on the tasks given. Maths homework will often be given using the Mathletics website that your child has been using in school. I will ensure that everyone's login details are stuck in the front of their reading diaries ready for next week.

We also encourage engagement with TT Rockstars each week. The aim is to build their understanding of the times tables and then improve their speed of recall. The advice is to practice little and often. All pupils also have a login for this in their reading diaries.

We also ask that pupils practice their spellings each week. You will find their weekly spellings stuck in their reading diary. Spellings will be tested on Fridays and will follow the weekly pattern. Every half term we will also review the 'rainbow spellings'.

Reading

We fully embrace the importance of regularly reading and want to encourage the children to read a variety of books for pleasure. Each week we will try to expose the children to a mixture of poetry, chapter books, fiction and non-fiction with whole class reading, reading buddies, comprehension work and guided reading.

Children have the opportunity to choose two books from our school libraries. One book will be a free choice, where pupils can choose any style and genre of book they are interested in, which does not have to be within their reading range. The other book will be from a certain colour band and will be within their reading range. This will be regularly assessed throughout each half term and altered when needed.

Your child should be able to give you details about their reading book to show their understanding of the text. We ask that the colour banded book is read three times before it is changed to help fluency and to suit the different style of questions that we ask the children in class when they read to us.

For children who have completed the coloured band scheme, they will choose one book which they will only be expected to read once before answering set questions about the text. We also encourage them to make recommendations to other pupils and complete book reviews.

Appointments

I am always happy to answer any concerns or queries as they arise so please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you would like to speak to me regarding a private concern, we can organise a meeting to discuss the matter fully.

Please read the school newsletter for any upcoming important dates.

Best wishes,

Mrs C McCallum