



Tuesday 15th September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to school and to a new academic year! All of the children have settled into the class well and are picking up the new routines brilliantly.

Our topic this half term is called 'Better Together.' In this topic we will be looking at the ways in which we can achieve more by working together, supporting each other and believing in ourselves and others. We will also be learning about the importance of the Wye Valley in developing tourism 250 years ago in a Gilpin project (A topic overview is attached).

Homework (English and Mathematics) will be set on a Thursday for it to be completed and handed in by Tuesday of the following week. We encourage parental involvement in homework, especially if your child is experiencing difficulties. However if they do need further support, please advise them to come and see me, or Mrs Taylor for English, or via the parent feedback on their homework sheet.

Weekly spellings, and the associated spelling rule, will be sent home on a Monday (in a separate book). The children will need to learn their weekly spellings, and its rule, ready for a spelling test on Friday of the same week. They will need to bring their Spelling Home Log Book into school on Friday because once they have done their test at school they will highlight the words they didn't get right in green. Children who get more than one wrong will need to do further practice over the weekend ready to be retested on the following Monday. It is very important that your child develops confidence in spelling a range of familiar and unfamiliar words as well as understanding the rules that need to be applied in order to spell such words.

Children should read at home (independently and to an adult) on a regular basis (daily if possible but at least 3 times a week). These should be recorded in your child's reading record book. Their reading record book and reading book need to be in school every day so that adults in school can hear your child and record their comments. It is also important to discuss what your child has read to help develop their reading comprehension skills.

For Maths there is a need for quick recall of all times table facts up to 12 x 12 and an expectation that children have a bank of known key facts, which they can recall instantly. Each half term we will have a different focus on a set of Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) and a copy will be sent home. Please spend some time each week helping your child to learn these facts as well as their times tables as these skills will be invaluable to their progress and ability to apply their Maths skills.

A PE kit will be required and should be in school at all times as we sometimes have PE lessons on different days. Please ensure your child has the correct kit for lessons and all items, including their school uniform are clearly labeled. No jewellery is to be worn and earrings must be removed.

Forest School afternoons will take place on Wednesday afternoons during terms in which the children are not swimming. Since the swimming pool is currently closed to school groups we are awaiting further instruction on when swimming will resume. Therefore, until further notice, Forest School sessions will be rotated weekly on Wednesday afternoons between Woodpecker, Owls and Peregrine classes. Owls Class will have their first Forest School session on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September (this week) and will have their following sessions every third week from this date. Please refer to the school app to find out which dates your child will be involved in forest school and the clothing they need to wear.

I am looking forward to working together to ensure your child is happy and that they achieve their full potential. Should you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to speak me while on the gate before or after school or email me.

Thank you and kind regards

Mrs Jones

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