



September 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back. We hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday and is ready for the term ahead. We are writing this newsletter to explain topics for this term and a few other things you need to know.

Our Class

I am really looking forward to starting the new term in Birch class and launching into all the exciting things we will be doing this year. I will be supported in the class this year by our teaching assistants Mrs Hartley, Mrs Brown and Mrs Felgate, who will all be working with us full-time.

Topic Work

Our topic for this term is The Victorians. Geography, History, Music, Art and DT will be taught through this topic and parts of the Literacy, RE and Computing curriculum will be linked to the topic where possible. Maths, Science, PSHCE, PE, and French will be taught as discrete subjects. We have a number of resources already in school to support our topic, however if your child would like to bring in anything from home that is related to the topic they are welcome to do so; we will take very good care of it. Please make sure these items are named.

Homework

Homework forms an important part of the curriculum. The homework set is linked to classroom learning and individual targets. If your child has any worries or concerns about the homework or needs support to complete it, please encourage them to come and see a teacher before the homework is due so we can go through it together. A variety of homework tasks will be sent home including written tasks, games and practical activities.

Reading- Try to aim for 10 mins every night.

Spellings - Children will be tested on their list of spellings every Friday morning. Children will be taught effective ways of learning their spellings in school, which they can then use at home. The 'look, cover, write and check' strategy is an effective method for a lot of children to use.

Rapid Recall Maths - We are starting a new type of maths homework where children are given individual targets to work towards at home. They will then be tested regularly in school to see if they have achieved the target set. More information about this new scheme will follow in a separate letter.

Projects - Each term the children will have the opportunity to explore the class topic by completing their own project. This is the chance for your children to have their own personal response to the topic and to delve into something that appeals to them, rather than it being prescribed by the teacher. They will be given a number of weeks to complete the project and an outline of what is expected.

Other - from time to time your child may receive homework in other areas of the curriculum. This work will be recorded in your child's planner on the day it is given.

Reading books



It is important that children read as often as possible at home. Your child must bring their reading book to school everyday even if they are on free reading. Children who are free readers may choose a book from the school library or bring one from home.

Your child must record what they are reading in their planner. If you hear your child read at home, please record this with a comment in their planner as it is helpful to hear how they are getting on at home and how often and how much they are reading. The children will also have a library book at school, which they will read on a set day as part of our guided reading provision in the class room. They will also read a different book or text with the teacher and a teaching assistant in these guided reading sessions.

Planners

Planners must be brought into school every day. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays your child should put it in the tray in the classroom along with their reading book. If your child has finished their reading book, this will be changed on these days. Your child's planner will be looked at by an adult at least once a week, usually on the child's guided reading day. If you have written a message in the planner to be read more urgently, your child must give this to an adult in the class. We will also use the planner as a form of communication with you, so please check your child's planner on a daily basis. There are a number of pages in the planner that will need completing and signing by you, please do this as soon as possible as it aids a smooth start to the school year.

Water bottles

Please make sure children have a water bottle so they can drink regularly whilst at school. This must be taken home every Friday to be washed and brought back the following Monday. Children can fill their water bottles up at school during the week from the water fountain.

PE

PE this term will take place on a Monday afternoon, taught by Mrs Akroyd and on Friday mornings with Mrs Akroyd and Mr Bode, from Kanga Sport. However, children must have their PE kits in school every day in case of changes to the timetable. This term, children will do both indoor and outdoor PE. For outdoor PE children will need trainers and black or navy tracksuit bottoms and for indoor PE they will need black or navy shorts, a plain white t-shirt and pumps. If children have to borrow school kit, this must be taken home, washed and returned to school as soon as possible.

Uniform

Please remember school uniform should be worn all the time and long hair needs to be tied back. Sutton's uniform does not include trainers and jewellery. Please help us in our battle against lost property and label all uniform clearly!

Pencil Cases

Children are provided with all the equipment they need in school. They therefore do not need to bring a pencil case to school. This avoids personal belongings being lost or broken.

I have been busy planning lots of interesting topics and activities and I am looking forward to seeing children from Birch class for their second year and to getting to know our new members of Birch class that have moved up this time from Willow class. If you have any queries or concerns about your child's academic or personal progress, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Best wishes,
Mrs Akroyd