



September 2017

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 excited to see all of our Year 4 children back from the holidays and to welcome our new Year 3 children to Birch class. I will be supported in the class by our teaching assistants Mrs Hartley, who will be working with the children throughout each day, and Mrs Walker, who will be spending the majority of her time with Birch class as well as supporting Oak class for part of the afternoons.

Topic Work

Our topic for this term is The Tudors. 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.

KIRFs and Times tables - Children will be tested weekly on their times tables. These facts are taught within school, but regular practise of all times tables at home is essential.

Projects - Every term children will be given a research project to do. 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. As an incentive, children are awarded 1 team point if they have read three times in one week and 2 team points if they have read five times or more. The children have all been given a library book that they keep in school, to be read regularly throughout the week. They will also read a different book in a weekly guided reading session with us.

Planners

Planners must be brought into school every day and your child should put it in the tray in the classroom on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 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, a white t-shirt and a blue or black jumper in case it is cold. 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 hopped tops, trainers, or 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 some great learning taking place in Birch 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