

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to welcome you and your child and in some cases children back to school after a long summer break. I hope your child has shared with you some of the activities they took part in yesterday. You may have even been treated to a poem! It was really lovely to see all the children.

We will be establishing routines and expectations this week. Children will also be involved in creating our own Class Charter. The Class Charter establishes exactly what children believe their rights are whilst they are working in Class 3 or with children from Class 3 in another environment. You will receive a copy of our Charter once it is written up. Please ask your child to explain our Class Charter when they bring it home.

I do like to have an open door policy. If you have any worries or concerns about your child please do not hesitate to come in to school to discuss matters with me. It is usually better to arrange an appointment by ringing the office, but I do understand worries crop up when you least think they will and you may feel you need to speak to me sooner rather than later. You could jot any concerns into a note if that helps.

Hopefully all children will have PE kit and an appropriate change of footwear in school by now. We will try to ensure your child is encouraged to be organised and more independent as the year progresses. Can you please label all items of clothing including PE kit. It is amazing the number of jumpers, shorts and white teeshirts we cannot find owners of after the second week because of no labels! We have a really exciting year already planned for the children. You will of course be finding out about planned trips and visitors in the near future. We will have very high expectations of your child in their work and play in and around school.

There will be weekly homework and extra homework for year 6 children who have a great deal to cover this academic year before end of Key Stage 2 National Tests. These will take place in the week commencing 11th May 2015. Please do not book any holidays during this very important week. A homework club will be starting shortly for children who may require some additional support enabling them to complete tasks on time. All children will be expected to hand homework in on time. Spelling lists will go home each week also as they are now part of the New National Curriculum English Programme of Study. It will be essential for your child to practise spellings if need be on a daily basis leading up to their test at the end of the week.

Reminders

Drinks Bottles: Please ensure your child brings a drinks bottle to school each day. Please send the bottle in empty as it can be filled with cool water each morning. Bottles will be kept in a suitable place in class and can be refilled at any time during the day.

P.E Kit: black/navy shorts, white/yellow polo shirt or tee-shirt, gym shoes or trainers and a tracksuit top and/or tracksuit bottoms for outdoor P.E in colder weather. It is important your child has a change of teeshirt for PE lessons. Children can leave P.E kits in school, until they are ready to be taken home to be washed.

Great websites: The following websites will give your child a chance to extend their learning in English and reinforce concepts they have learnt in Mathematics. There is homework help too.

www.nrich.maths.org

www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/>

English and MFL

Speaking and listening activities are crucial to each unit of work and are always incorporated into lessons. Our first unit of work is based on Treasure Island, written by Robert Louis Stevenson. In writing we will cover a range of texts including report writing, explanatory writing and a study of another book. Children will also be required this year to be able to recite a range of poetry off by heart. Bug Club is an online reading programme and can be accessed at home. It is fabulous for children of all abilities but especially for children who are not fluent readers yet or struggle with comprehension when you ask them questions about stories they have read. You will find your child makes rapid progress if they are able to access the programme at least three times a week at home. Please ask me about Bug Club if you require any further information.

Please encourage your child to practise their cursive handwriting at home for five minutes each night for the next two weeks. This style will encourage your child to join their writing. Please do not hesitate to ask for a sample to be sent home so your child can practise. As you can see this is an example of the style of writing we are aiming for.

I am delighted to inform you that a French Assistant will begin working in class 3 this term. I am sure the children will learn a range of sounds, skills and conversational French.

Mathematics

We will continue to use groups in our Mathematics lessons are working well across the school. Topics this term include data handling, shape and space, data handling and using and applying mathematics. There is a great emphasis on mental mathematics and calculations this year. In year 5 children are expected to know their tables up to the 8 times table. If your child

does not know their tables they will fall behind. Please ask your child to recite a whole table each night until they know them. Your child will have opportunities to work as a whole class, in a small group, in pairs or individually. Speed is essential in mental maths and children are expected by the end of year 6 to be able to answer questions like 9×12 or 72 divided by 6 in five seconds.

Science

This term we are studying the human body and will be dipping into the new part of the Science curriculum, Evolution. Science lessons will be practical and interactive as far as possible.

P.E

P.E lessons this term will be Rugby and Hockey. We are hoping to enter the rugby festival and perhaps participate in some hockey against other schools this term. Children will be invited to come into school at 8:50 as usual each morning to participate in early morning wake up sessions with Cyber Coach, our interactive dance programme. We continue to be supported by qualified members of staff from the School Sports Partnership.

Music

We are fortunate to be able to work with Sofia this term from the Sage. Work in music includes singing and playing a range of percussion instruments. We will also learn some new songs whilst studying Treasure Island.

Computing:

Children will be collecting a range of data linked to their Science topic and learning how to use Excel to show children how to compare sets of data and how to produce a range of graphs also.

RE:

We start the year with a topic called Loving. This topic is followed by a topic called Vocations and Commitment which will then lead to a topic called Expectations leading up to Christmasc. Children will be assessed during the second topic this term.

If you require any further information about class 3 please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I look forward to your continued support and encouragement.

History/Geography/Art and Design/ Design and Technology – the overall topic for this term is called Who Am I?

In history this term we are studying pre Roman Britain and in particular the Iron Age.

Geography

We will be looking at Iron Age Settlements in pre Roman Britain this half term and Festivals and the topic of Christmas after half term.

Lynda Doyle