

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. The Spring Term will be a very busy one.

I have reminded the children about routines and our expectations of them. We have also talked about our Class Charter.

My open door policy remains the same. If you have any worries or concerns about your child/children, please do not hesitate to come in 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. Any concerns may be put in writing also. Can I please ask that you contact the office or myself in writing of any hospital or dental appointments in school time. 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 continue to have very high expectations of your child in their work and play in and around school.

P.E remains a high priority in school and it is very important that all children have a suitable kit and footwear in school. PE kit can be left in school unless it gets very dirty and needs to be washed. Can you please label all items of clothing including PE kit. 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 wake up programme. We also continue to be supported by qualified members of staff from the School Sports Partnership.

Year 6 homework

Bags are essential this term and children are expected to have one in school with folders, homework and drinks bottles in. All SAT's work will be expected back in on a daily basis whether completed or not. Homework will be much more orientated towards SAT's tasks and children will be well prepared for tests if they complete given homework on time. I understand some children may be worried and think they are going to struggle with elements of the tests, but I am sure with your continued support and their attendance of revision classes either after school or at lunchtime (for those unable to attend after school) your child will feel more at ease when they begin their tests in May. SAT's this year begin on Monday 11th May. Please can I remind you not to book any holidays during this week.

Year 5 homework

There will be regular homework for year 5 children who also have a great deal to cover this term. All children will be expected to hand homework in on time. Spelling lists will

continue. In the New English National Curriculum Programme of Study there is a list of spellings that children in Year 5 and 6 are expected to know by the end of Key Stage 2. Tests are usually on a Monday so the children have a week to learn new spellings.

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/>

Reminders for All Children

Drinks Bottles: A drinks bottle is required each day at school. Bottles should be empty brought to school and then filled with cool water each morning. They should then be kept in bags or a suitable place in the classroom 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 tee shirt for PE lessons. Children can leave P.E kits in school, until they are ready to be taken home to be washed. PE this term is football organised by Sunderland Football Club and tag rugby supported by the PE staff from Dene School of Technology.

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 The Jungle Book, written by Rudyard Kipling. In writing we will cover a range of texts including report writing, autobiography and biography, 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.

I continue to ask that you encourage your child to practise their cursive handwriting at home for five minutes each night for the next two weeks, until their handwriting begins to resemble this style. 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 Sandrine, our French Assistant will continue her work across all classes this term. Children last term were taught to ask; how are you? Who is this? (linked to members of the family) What colour? What part of the face? Please ask your child to speak in French to you.

Mathematics

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 Earth and Space. Science lessons will be practical and interactive as far as possible.

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.

Computing:

Children will be linked to subjects across the curriculum.

RE:

We start the year with a topic called Sources.

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 Traditional Tales and we will also be studying the Shang Dynasty.

Lynda Doyle