Autumn Term 2017

**September 4, 2017**

**Dear Parents**

**Welcome back for another year!**

I hope that you have enjoyed the extended break with your lovely children and appreciated the sunshine – as and when it appeared!

This newsletter is designed to help you settle as quickly as possible into life in Year 5.

**Organisation**

Year 5 is a crucial year in which we develop many of the skills that will be essential for success in Year 6. With this in mind we place a strong emphasis on the children taking ownership of their own learning, including making sure they are prepared for school every day. I would ask that they are responsible for their own homework, letters, jumpers and PE kits. They need to ensure they bring in and take home their reading books daily and that they have the correct PE kit in school at all times. Children need to ensure they have their homework on the stated days. If there are exceptional circumstances meaning that homework is not completed, please send a note in with your child so I can be clear about the reasons, as it is otherwise usual for children who do not hand in work to spend lunchtime completing these tasks.

Homework

Project homework will continue this term, as the feedback has been that the children really enjoyed this and excelled at it. Children will be expected to complete a minimum of 100 points over the 7 weeks, choosing the homework they would like to do. Every week I will check in on a Friday to see where the children have got to and I will also do a midway check 3-4 weeks in so no-one gets left behind. I will run a homework club Monday lunchtimes also to support children with this.

Any after school tutoring or 11+ preparation is an extra-curricular commitment and should be done in addition to, *not in place of class homework*. Thank you.

**PE/Games**

PE and games will be on Thursday this half term, where we are fortunate to have a specialist from the Sport, Learn and Move project working with the children every Thursday afternoon for the next 6 weeks. All kits should be in school from the start of next week. As our sessions will mix indoor and outdoor activities a full kit is required. It will be sent home at half term for laundering.

**Trips**

We will be stimulating our learning with off- site activities. Watch this space for details of next term’s trip linked to World War 2. Details will be sent to you soon.

**Working in partnership**

As a school, we believe passionately that your child’s learning best benefits from a positive relationship with you as parents and guardians. As a parent myself, I know the immense trust that you place in us each day as you drop your children into our care and I will work hard every day to honour that trust.

With this in mind please take time to say hello or raise any issues at the end of the school day when the children exit school from the rear door of the hall. If you need to speak with me at greater length or in private I will naturally be happy to arrange a time to do that.

 *A*ny support is always welcomed so please do not hesitate to catch me if you are interested in coming into the classroom to help any time throughout the week.

**our Learning this term…**

In **English** we will be continuing to develop as writers by becoming confident story tellers. This term we will be writing ‘Lost and Found’ stories based on a World War 2 evacuation story, creating poetry, writing biographies and autobiographies and getting ready to write’ Scary Stories’ after half term. Our’ Big Write’ project continues, so watch this space for the talk homework which has been so helpful in generating exciting ideas for the pupils’ independent writing.

Our **RE** work will begin with our celebrations of our school Feast day on Thursday 14th September. Then we will be considering our roles as co-creators in our ‘Creation’ unit, moving on to ‘Sacraments’. Finally we will enter our ‘Advent’ unit as we move towards Christmas.

Our **Maths** work will build on the work done last year. We will be developing further confidence in calculation using all four operations. In addition we will be working on understanding shape and measure. All this work will be put into practice in our problem solving mornings and supported by our ‘daily mental maths sessions.

Our **Science** investigations will focus on Evolution and Inheritance which we will link to our Creation work in RE. Our **Topic** work will be on World War 2, particularly Plymouth’s part in it. This will also continue after half term where there will be a trip linked to the topic. Details to follow.

In Year 5 and 6 we have the benefit of Mrs Schroeder, a Music Specialist, coming in every Tuesday afternoon to work with the children for an hour. This will support the children’s singing and performance ability. They will also have Mrs Duthie to work with them on a Tuesday as part of our PPA cover.

All of our learning is underpinned by our **Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning** work the pupils engage in. This term they will be considering New Beginnings and how to manage the start of a new term.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your family over the year and am very much looking forward to a wonderful year of learning with the new Year 5.

With every good wish,

Rachael Riley

 

 



