



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. We trust you had a wonderfully relaxing Christmas holiday and are now settled back into school routines. We are delighted to report that the last two terms have been extremely positive with the children making excellent progress. This was reflected in both ongoing and end of term assessments. To ensure things continue to run effectively, we hope the following information is useful and will give you a better picture of how you can help your child to make the most of the next two terms leading up to Easter.

Reading

The children are taking full responsibility for ensuring daily reading is completed and all are working diligently to record relevant comments in their reading diary every day. This system continues. At the very beginning of term we discussed as a class, the kind of information they might record after each daily reading session. Having drawn ideas together, your child now has a reference sheet in the front of the book to guide them. Please encourage them to refer to this. As was the case last term, if you are able to find time to read with your child and particularly share thoughts on a book, discussing language, punctuation, characters' reactions, plot etc. this would be enormously beneficial. Please feel free to record any positive comments you have about your child's reading in their reading diary as part of this process. Although it is your child's responsibility to record the reading they do each day, it is a book for your use too.

Homework

This term, in their yellow homework book, your child will continue to record weekly homework tasks they have been set along with due in dates. Homework is an important exercise in teaching the children skills of organisation and independence and, for the most part, we have been impressed with the efforts they have taken to produce work of quality. Presentation is an important element of completing written homework successfully so this is an area you may wish to monitor. Do ensure they are following our handwriting policy, joining letters and making them of consistent size. Headings should be underlined and dates recorded.

Along with approximately twenty minutes of reading which we expect them to do each evening whether it's with you or independently, we will continue to set one piece of maths and one piece of English homework a week which should take no longer than an hour to complete. Generally, the activities will be given on a Friday and we expect homework books containing completed homework tasks in on Tuesday. The children will also be given their weekly spelling list, usually on a Wednesday, to be tested on the following Wednesday. Spelling Star words will continue to be issued at the start of each term. Thus far, the pupils have worked hard to learn these and nearly all have achieved the goal set. Please continue to help your child to learn these words on a regular basis to ensure that by the end of the term their 'Spelling Star' can be awarded. It is also helpful if, from time to time, you can go back and test them on words previously issued.

P.E.

P.E. is timetabled for Thursday afternoon and Friday morning so your child will need to have kit in school on these days. This term, the children will be perfecting their hockey and gymnastic skills. Most of our hockey sessions on a Thursday when the weather is fine will be outdoors so it is important that they have trainers and, on colder days, track suit trousers and tops. For these sessions they also require shin pads and a mouth guard. For inside P.E. lessons on Friday they will need t-shirts and shorts and activities will be completed bare foot. **(Please refer to the school web site for P.E. uniform requirements.)** We would be most grateful if you could check regularly that all clothing is marked with your child's name. Occasionally additional P.E. classes take place on other days when, for instance, sports' providers run taster sessions for the children so it's useful if their kit can remain in school for the week before going home at a weekend for a freshen up.

Class room equipment

All the time we are focusing on developing the children's independence. Part of this involves bringing to school, and taking responsibility for, writing equipment. It would be helpful therefore if the children were kitted out with items including pencils, a handwriting pen (no biros or cartridge pens, please), a rubber, a sharpener and a 30cm

ruler, preferably a rigid one. We do of course, have all this equipment in school but it is good to see the children really taking responsibility for bringing their own belongings into the classroom and replenishing kit when necessary. The space that they have to hang their coats and bags during the day is limited so we would be grateful if you can supervise them in bringing only these essential items to school.

Curriculum

We hope that as the weeks go on your child will talk positively about the things we are doing in class. The curriculum is full and demanding with expectations high but the children remain keen to build on the progress they have already made.

In English the children will complete weekly comprehension tasks and receive formal spelling and grammar lessons. We will explore a range of genres through reading and writing sessions which will involve the children having a good understanding of narrative, journalistic, diary and instructional writing, along with persuasive passages, information texts and letter formats. This term we will be using Philip Pullman's 'Clockwork' as our inspiration for writing.

You can support your child in accessing the English curriculum in a number of ways. To stimulate a love of reading, expose him/her to a range of reading material at home. Along with their reading book, encourage them to pick up a newspaper or dip into a child's magazine. Some excellent examples which are sold in all good newsagents are 'National Geographic Kids', 'First News', 'Aquila' and 'The Week Junior Magazine'. We hope that by sharing a variety of texts, they will become increasingly enthused and engaged. Helping your child to learn weekly spellings and termly 'Spelling Star' words is crucial and guiding them in writing homework tasks by encouraging them to use a range of punctuation marks appropriately, varying the way they start sentences and praising interesting and varied vocabulary choice will make an enormous difference.

In Maths we will of course continue to consolidate quick recall of multiplication and division facts along with facts related to other areas of the curriculum. These include being able to round numbers, recall fraction, decimal and percentage equivalents (e.g. $1/10 = 0.1 = 10\%$), knowing relationships between units of measurement (e.g. $1.2\text{km} = 1200\text{m}$), telling the time and being able to convert times in the 12 hour clock to times written using the 24 hour clock, knowing all facts related to 2D and 3D shapes (number of faces, vertices, edges etc.) and instantly recalling squared numbers, cubed numbers, factors, multiples and primes. Please continue to test your child on these areas throughout the year. Other work will focus on using standard methods of calculation to add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers including fractions and those with decimals. We will return to a topic on exploring area and perimeter of compound shapes as well as irregular shapes and triangles. The children will complete additional shape work towards the end of the term which will involve naming, measuring and calculating missing angles and, in a topic on coordinates, they will plot shapes in all four quadrants on a grid. There will be continue to be an emphasis on investigative maths in order to deeper their understanding of topics. With Maths Week on the horizon, lots of practical maths activities are being planned and it is in this area you can particularly support your child. Focusing on elements of maths when cooking, when travelling from one destination to another, when reading train timetables, when out shopping for instance can give your child a practical understanding of how important maths is in everyday situations. Being able to tell the time at this stage is imperative.

In science we will be exploring the properties of materials and our humanities topic focuses on deforestation. Skills the children learn in art and computing will be used to enhance their study of these areas. As always, when using the internet, which we will do a lot, the children are reminded of the importance of keeping themselves safe. Please help us by continuing to reinforce this message at home.

This term the children will continue to learn German with Mrs Thandi. This is a lesson which always generates enormous enthusiasm. As previously mentioned, P.E. sessions will focus on hockey and gymnastic skills and steel pan lesson continue on Wednesday afternoons. We are digging deeper into the depths of the Sikh religion in RE and our Citizenship Course will take the theme of 'creating a community'.

Dates for whole school events and those related to Year 5 specifically will be published in weekly newsletters and on the website so please do take note of these.

We look forward to having an opportunity to discuss with you how your child has continued to make progress through the curriculum in the next Parents' Evening at the end of February but in the meantime if you require clarification on anything, please feel free to catch us on the playground at the beginning or end of the day.

Yours faithfully,

Anna Smith
Jill Cornwell

Useful websites:

BBC Bitesize KS2

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

Study Ladder

www.study ladder.co.uk

Maths

http://www.transum.org/Software/SW/Starter_of_the_day/

Woodlands Junior Maths, Literacy and Science zones

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/literacy/>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/revision/Science/>

Spelling games

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html>