



## **Holy Trinity C of E Primary School**

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Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

Executive Principal: Mr Dave Rooney

11<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Key Stage 2! I hope you and your families enjoyed the summer break. The children look incredibly smart in their blazers and have already impressed me greatly by the way they have settled into Year 3 and quickly adapted to new routines. At this stage, I would like to encourage communication between home and school, which is so crucial for children's progress. I am generally available after school, so please do not hesitate to see me if there is anything you would like to discuss. I hope that your child continues to thrive, progress and enjoy the rest of their time at Holy Trinity. Having spent some time getting to know the class during transition, I am really excited about the year ahead. To make the home school partnership easier, here is some information about the topics we will be covering in the curriculum. I hope it is useful to you.

### **Reading**

I cannot stress enough the importance of reading, as it enables children to access every area of the curriculum. Children should read daily. The children have been issued with a new reading diary in which to record their reading, both in school and at home. The children are aware they need to take their diary home every afternoon and bring it into school the following morning. The expectation is that your child will make an entry in their diary each evening following a theme. For example, this week they have been asked to predict what might happen next in the story. If they are reading non-fiction, they might like to tell me a fact. If you are able to hear your child read aloud and discuss the text with them, this would benefit them enormously. Please sign and date the diary every time you hear your child read and include any thoughts you may have. Your views are always helpful. Although the children will bring home books each day to read from our classroom shelves, please encourage them to include any other books they read at home, both fiction and non-fiction. It is always interesting to know the children's choices and preferences. If you are able to come in and hear readers on a Friday afternoon, you are most welcome.

### **Homework**

Homework will be set on Friday to be back the following Tuesday. Your child will be given a reading comprehension each week alongside a maths task, although occasionally other subjects maybe included. Homework should be neatly presented with the same expectations as in the classroom. The children will also be given a weekly spelling list each Wednesday to learn for a test the following Wednesday. Spelling Stars will be given out at the beginning of each term to be learnt for a test during the last week of term. Please encourage your child to practice spellings. It will benefit them considerably as they continue up through the years. If you are able to cover your child's homework book with clear plastic, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support.

### **P.E.**

Gosling class will be having P.E on Tuesday afternoon and will swim each Thursday morning. If you are able to accompany us to the Magnet Leisure Centre to assist with swimming, please let me know. We leave school at 11am and return at approximately 12.30pm. This gets earlier as the term progresses and the children become faster at getting changed! **Please refer to the school website regarding correct P.E. kit** and please ensure all items are clearly named.

## **Classroom Equipment**

To encourage a sense of responsibility and independence, children have been given essential equipment to store in their desks. However, I am more than happy for the children to have their own pencil case with key equipment, for example: pencil, rubber and ruler (preferably a 30cm rigid type) and coloured pencils. The children are adjusting to their new Key Stage 2 books well: smaller squares in maths book and narrow lines in English and humanities books. There is an emphasis on handwriting and presentation this year, which includes the correct pencil grip and a good handwriting position. I will be awarding handwriting points and when the children have earned six points, they will be awarded a pen license. Once your child has their pen license, they may use a blue handwriting pen for all writing, except maths. If the children have their own pen, please ensure that it is a handwriting pen (not a biro) and it is clearly named.

## **Curriculum**

We have an enjoyable and exciting term ahead, which includes our first trip of the year! As you are aware, our class trip will support several areas of the curriculum which I hope your child will find interesting.

In English, we are exploring the relationship between illustration and text, using Chris Haughton's excellent book: SHH! We have a plan. We have used collage to make characters and settings in the style of the author and as the term progresses, the children will be developing their own characters and settings using the same technique and bringing them to life through their writing. The children will also use drama and ICT to explore their ideas further. They will look at writing dialogue for their characters and will eventually create their own picture books. Once the books are 'published' we will be taking them into Swan class to read with Year 1. Alongside this work, the children will focus on a different spelling pattern each week and will continue to develop their grammar and punctuation to enhance the technical side of their writing.

In maths we will be looking at place value, addition and subtraction, problem solving, symmetry and shape. We will also look at different methods of calculating while building confidence in mental maths. Please continue to support your child in learning their times tables. Being able to recall times table facts and number bonds quickly is extremely helpful for your child's progress in maths. In science this term, we will be studying light and shadows. Our history topic will cover Stone Age to Bronze Age. The class are very lucky to have Mrs. Thandi to teach their French lessons, which will begin this week. She will begin with meeting and greeting before moving on to numbers, colours and calendar. In RE the children will be looking at how Christians show they belong to the church by taking communion. Music will be taught by an outside specialist teacher and these lessons will also begin this week. The children have been given sketch books this year, which they will use during art and DT lessons. These sketch books will move up the years with them.

Once again, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact. I look forward to meeting you formally at Parents Evening.

Yours faithfully,

*Yolande Brown*