



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

Executive Principal: Mr Dave Rooney

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. I trust you had a wonderfully relaxing holiday and are now settled back into school routines. The children have taken to Year 6 like ducks to water and are embracing the challenges and responsibilities it brings. To ensure things continue to run effectively I 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 their last year at Holy Trinity before moving on to secondary school.

Reading

Your child has been given a new reading/homework diary in which they will keep a record of their daily reading. It is a really important note book and it is essential that it is looked after. The children understand that they take it home every evening and bring it back to school the next day having recorded the reading they have done that evening. They will of course be making daily entries in school and it is the expectation that they read at home each evening. 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. they would benefit enormously. Please feel free to record any positive comments you have about your child's reading in their reading book. This is a book for your use too and I do enjoy reading your views.

Homework

In their yellow homework book they will record weekly homework tasks they have been set along with due in dates. Although I feel that homework should not be arduous, I believe that it is an important exercise in teaching the children skills of organisation and independence. It provides them with an opportunity to take responsibility for their own learning and prepares them for senior school. Along with approximately twenty minutes of reading which we expect them to do each evening, whether it's with you or independently, I will usually set one piece of maths and one piece of English homework a week which should take no longer than an hour to complete. The English will often take the form of a reading comprehension, punctuation or grammar activity and the maths tasks will follow topics we cover in class. Generally the activities will be given on a Friday and I will expect homework books containing completed homework tasks in on Tuesday. Children will also be given their weekly spelling list on a Friday, to be tested on the following Thursday.

Please feel free to assist your child with tasks but often they will be consolidation activities which, for the most part, they should be able to complete independently. Occasionally the homework will be a practical activity but whatever is set, your child will record clear instructions in their book. 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 the handwriting policy, joining letters and making them of consistent size. Headings should be underlined and dates recorded.

P.E.

P.E. is timetabled for Thursday morning and Friday afternoon so your child will need to have kit in school on this day. This term the children will be perfecting their rugby and dance skills. Rugby sessions will be outdoors so it is important that they have trainers and, on colder days, track suit trousers and tops. However for inside P.E. lessons when the weather is poor they will need t-shirts and shorts. (Please refer to the school web site for uniform details.) I 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 biro's, please), a rubber, a sharpener, a glue stick, pencil crayons, a highlighter and a 30cm ruler, preferably a rigid one. We do have all this equipment in school, of course, but it is good to see the children already taking responsibility for bringing their own belongings to school. The space that they have to hang their coats and bags during the day is limited so I would be grateful if you can supervise them in bringing only these essential items to school.

Curriculum

For the Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) this year, the process will follow the same pattern as the previous two years with the children tested on their reading comprehension, spelling, knowledge of grammar and punctuation and maths. You may wish to see for yourself the sample tests the Government have published so that you can see how best to support your child by going to

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-2016-sample-materials>

The expectations are high and with a lot still to cover before the examinations in May the pace is fast. To prepare them appropriately, in English I will be teaching formal grammar lessons as well as exploring a range of genres in reading and writing sessions. I will also be teaching a spelling lesson each week where the children will be learning a specific rule which can be applied to several words.

We have begun the term by studying 'The Firework-Maker's daughter' by Phillip Pullman with a focus on descriptive narrative writing. With the SATs reading comprehension being particularly challenging, reading remains a key focus. You can help us by exposing your child to a range of reading material at home. Along with their reading book, do they ever pick up a newspaper or do you subscribe to a child's magazine? We hope that by talking about, and giving them a variety of texts they will become increasingly enthused and engaged.

In Maths we will be consolidating our quick recall of multiplication and division facts – the children are being encouraged to work through the times table and competency certificates quickly! If your child cannot recall times tables at speed it is essential that they practise these at home. This year there will be an even greater emphasis on investigative maths in order to deepen their understanding of topics.

In Science our topic is light which will be taught by Mrs. Cornwell.

In the Humanities, we will focus on the Aztecs and our Art and DT will relate to this topic.

In Religious Education we will be considering the relevance of saints; what they mean to certain people and how they have been revered.

The children will continue to learn German and the steel pans.

The children will be using their ICT skills to enhance the whole curriculum in a number of ways. As always, when using the internet the children are reminded of the importance of keeping themselves safe. Perhaps you could help us by reinforcing this message at home.

With so much happening, it promises to be a busy yet exciting term.

End of day arrangements

Please note that if you would like to child/children to walk home independently, I require written confirmation of this.

Dates for the Diary Related to Yr. 6 (Please see the website for whole school events)

- **W/b 25th September - Cycling Proficiency Week**
- **Monday 9th October - Meeting about Devon Trip at Lowbrook Academy (6:30pm)**
- **Friday 6th October – Trip to Henley Literacy Festival**
- **Friday 13th October – Moorhen Class Assembly**
- **W/b 14th May – Yr. 6 SATs**
- **W/b 2nd July – Devon Trip**
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I look forward to having an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into year 6 at Parents' Evening in November but in the meantime if you require clarification on anything, please feel free to pop in to see me or catch on the playground at the end of the day.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Gosling

Useful websites:

BBC Bitesize KS2

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

Study Ladder

www.studyladder.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>