



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

Executive Principal: Mr Dave Rooney

13th January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. I hope that you had a thoroughly enjoyable Christmas and New Year and are now settled back into the school routines. The beginning of term has been great in year 4 and the children have all begun the term with high expectations. I trust that the following information is useful.

Reading

Please continue to ensure that your child continues to fill out their reading diary in full each time they read individually or are heard read. Each child needs to ensure that they take it home at the end of every school day and bring it back to school with them the next day.

I aim to hear the children read as often as possible, however this is not always as regular as I would like. It is still extremely important for your child to read aloud to someone at home. I suggest that your child reads aloud to an adult for ten minutes at least 3 times a week as this will benefit them tremendously. When they are not reading aloud, they should be reading individually and recording it in their reading diary. Mr Redjeb will be checking your child's reading diary every Tuesday so if you have any comments about their reading please comment inside. If you are able to come in to school to hear readers, please let me know.

Homework

As a reminder, the children will continue to be set homework on a weekly basis. Usually, this will be one piece of English homework and one piece of Maths homework although may occasionally be a piece of topic work, RE work, a science activity or some research. The homework will be given out every Thursday and I will expect the homework in on the following Tuesday. As before, the homework will usually be a follow up on the learning from the week, although will sometimes be preparation for the following week. Homework should be completed independently, however please feel free to assist your child with tasks if you so wish. Presentation is always key, as it is in their school books, so I expect the homework to follow the same expectations. A homework sticker will be stuck in at the top of the homework page with clear instructions. If it is not clear, please do not hesitate to ask for a further explanation.

Along with their homework, the children will also be given a list of weekly spellings which will be tested on the Tuesday when the rest of the homework is due in.

At the start of term, the children were given a spelling star to learn. Most of the 20 words are words which fit in with topics throughout the term. However, some of the words are words which children are expected to know by the end of year 4.

P.E.

The times for PE has changed slightly this term. Rather than Monday afternoon, the children will be having their first PE session of the week on a Wednesday morning which will be hockey. The children will continue to have a PE session on Thursday morning with me. I advise that your child keeps their PE kit at school for the week and only takes it home at the weekend should it need a wash.

Classroom equipment

As a reminder, the school will provide the children with all the necessary equipment, however if your child wishes to bring in their own pencil case it is fine. When your child gains their handwriting licence, they will be able to use a blue handwriting pen (not a biro) for all writing, except for maths where they will use a pencil.

Curriculum

We have a brilliant term ahead.

In English our topic is 'Stories with a historical setting' and we are reading the book 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo. We will be looking at descriptive writing, news reports, advertisements, character profiles, letter writing and writing an account of a battle.

In Maths we will be looking at addition and subtraction using the column method, short multiplication, division, factor pairs, roman numerals, time and money problems. Please continue testing your children on their times tables if they have not achieved all their certificates. Remind your child to ask me to test them if they are ready for any tables! This will really help their maths this year.

In Science this term, the children will be learning about states of matter. So far the children have look at materials which are a solid or liquid and have begun looking at some characteristics of solids and liquids. They will go on to looking at gases, temperature, evaporation and condensation.

Each Monday morning, the children will be taught by Mrs Cornwell and will learn about the Anglo Saxons in History. This will be a cross-curricular benefit to our English book 'Beowulf'.

The children will be covering D.T. this term and our focus will be on moving and pop up pictures. The children will work in small groups to explore, develop and communicate a design for a pop up picture.

The focus for RE this term is pilgrimage. The children have starting looking at what is meant by a pilgrimage and have thought about a place which is special to them. They will go on to learning about different Christian places of pilgrimage as well as some Hindu places of pilgrimage.

In Computing we will be looking at Scratch. The children will use the netbooks and the programme to make a game. They will learn different skills on how to make the sprite move and dance by responding to different commands.

Yours faithfully,

Millie Davies