



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! We hope you and your family have had a lovely break over Easter and that the children are ready to throw themselves into the last term of Year Three – where has the time gone?

The team are very happy to return to school, and we are pleased to have Mr. Reynolds back with us. We have already hit the ground running as there are lots of exciting projects and topics to cover over the next two small terms.

Reading

The children have made fantastic progress overall with their reading and I am keen that this should continue. I have, however, noticed that some children are starting to lose momentum with reading at home and a fair few did not seem to read at all over the Easter break. It is vital that they should read every day and record their reading in their diaries. As children move on to free readers, please ensure they have access to a wide variety of genres to keep their interest and knowledge of text as broad as possible. We have now moved to a system where they should be recording their own reading and the comments in their reading diaries should be relevant to what they have read – a personal comment or opinion, a note about new words they have come across or a summary, for example.

Homework

As in previous terms, homework tasks are set on a Thursday and should be handed in the following Tuesday. Where possible – and following instructions given on Google Classroom, please make sure the children work in their homework book rather than fill in the odd word on a worksheet. Where it has been necessary to work on a sheet, please ensure these are glued into their book so we don't lose them.

Spelling Shed words continue to be set on a Tuesday until the following Tuesday when we will do our test. We do check with the children how often they are practising and there is often a strong correlation between the amount of practice they have completed and how well they are learning the spellings, both for the test and in their normal work. Little and often has better results than going on Spelling Shed once a week for a long period of time.

Spelling Stars are set as an assignment termly, so the children will have these spellings at the back of their homework book AND on Spelling Shed.

Don't forget to encourage your child to log in to Times Tables Rock Stars which really helps them to develop fluency in their tables. The expectation is that children will be fluent in their 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 & 10 times tables by the end of Year Three with the remaining tables being learnt in Year Four.

Homework is given to reinforce what they are learning at school so they should for the most part be able to complete tasks independently, but some support may sometimes be needed.

Classroom Equipment – a gentle reminder

It's important that the children come to school ready to learn and a vital part of this is them having the correct equipment with them. You would be surprised at how much time some children waste looking for equipment that they think they might have but aren't absolutely sure! Children in Key Stage 2 are required to bring their own equipment to school. This enables them to develop independence and a responsible attitude with the emphasis on them taking care of their belongings. Recently, many children have been bringing in Ligami pens to school. As they have been trading them and taking them out to play with them, many are being lost and it is causing quite an upset and not a little disruption. Therefore in lower KS2 we have decided that children can keep a blue and a green pen in school but all others must be kept at home for safekeeping.

It would be helpful, therefore, if the children have these items;

2x HB pencils, colouring pencils, rubber, sharpener, 30cm ruler (preferably a rigid one), glue stick, child's scissors and a blue handwriting pen (not a biro or cartridge pen) for those with a pen licence. These should be in a plastic, easily cleaned pencil case. Glue sticks often run out, so please remember to ask your child regularly if theirs needs replacing. These are stored in their desks for their use only. It is also helpful to provide your child with hand sanitiser

and tissues, a healthy fruit based snack for breaktime, a water bottle and packed lunch (unless a school lunch has been ordered). Please remember we are a nut and sesame free school as we have several children across all Key Stages with severe nut allergies.

As cloakroom space is limited, please ensure your child has a bag which is suitable for their needs and not oversized. Please also ensure ALL items of uniform are named as they often remove cardigans, or jumpers as the weather gets warmer and it is very easy to lose things. Additionally, as the summer progresses, remember to put suncream on your child before they come to school.

Curriculum

In **English**, during Term 5, we will be studying historical fiction as a genre this term, specifically a book called 'The Roman Invasion' written by Josh Lacey. This will enhance our history topic of the Romans in Britain. In Term 6 we will be studying the poetry of Joseph Coelho, who was the children's laureate in 2022 and 2023. There will be lots of opportunities to have fun with poetry, both performing it individually and in groups and exploring writing using different forms of poetry. He has produced many YouTube and BBC videos online and it's well worth looking him up!

As already mentioned, we continue to teach spelling using Spelling Shed addressing spelling rules and we have regular punctuation and grammar lessons throughout the week. A Big Write will be undertaken at regular intervals.

In **maths** this term we start with the second part of our fraction topic, followed by money and time. There is a large amount of content particularly with this last topic and it would be very helpful for your child if you could start talking about time and telling the time on an analogue clock from now; they are expected to already know how to tell time to five minutes past and to the hour before we start. After this, we will have a topic on shape and the last topic of Year Three will be statistics (this used to be called data handling, and involves reading charts, tables and graphs etc.)

As mentioned, we will study the Romans in Britain this term looking at the concept of Empire, how life changed and looking at the influence and role of Boudicca. In Term 6, our Geography topic will focus on the South-East region of the UK, studying physical and human characteristics of the area. As the children move through Key Stage 2, they will build on their knowledge of the SE region each year and compare it with other areas of Europe and the world.

Our theme for **RE** this term looks at whether Jesus has authority, and we learn about notable Bible stories where Jesus shows his authority. In Summer 2 we will be thinking about whether made up stories can tell the truth.

In PSHE we will start by investigating a topic on citizenship followed by economic wellbeing.

Our **Design Technology** topic will link with our Roman topic and we will be researching, designing and making Roman structures. Then we move to **Art** and explore creating shields related to Romans and Celts

Music is another exciting area this term as we will be learning songs for the Junior Music Festival run by Berkshire Maestros. This event involves many schools across Berkshire coming together to create a wonderful concert. During the course of the Summer Term there will be 2 rehearsals taking place at Courthouse School during the school day and the concert will take place on Thursday June 26th at the Hexagon in Reading. Again, we will send you more details as the term goes on. Please put the date in your diary!

Computing this term will be developing the skills to produce video trailers on iPads and Mrs Pow will continue to teach **Spanish** to Goslings in a weekly session, mainly focussing on verbal skills.

P.E remains on the timetable for Monday morning and Thursday afternoon with Mr. Whittle. This term the children will be keeping active with dance and athletics. They will work with Mrs. Lucas for some of the time, developing a dance for a performance during our Art and Culture Week. From June the children will be learning tennis and cricket.

In addition to the art days and the Junior Music Festival, we have two themed weeks coming up after half term. The first one is Arts and Culture which will focus on world unity. Then at the end of June we will have out Sports Week followed by Sports Day in July.

It is going to be a busy and exciting term. We are really looking forward to all that is ahead as we draw the academic year to a close. We do also, of course, have careful transition arrangements planned as the children prepare to move into Year Four.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership this year – it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona O'Reilly