



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. We are delighted to be here and very much hope that you and your child are beginning to settle back into school routines. To ensure things run effectively this year 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 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 we do ask 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 some additional entries in school and it is the expectation that they read at home each evening whenever possible. Children benefit enormously from shared reading, including discussing the contents of a book, language, punctuation, characters' reactions, plot etc. Please feel free to record any comments you have about your child's reading in their reading diary. This is a book for your use too.

Homework

Homework tasks will continue to be set using Google Classroom. You and your child will hopefully be familiar with this platform. In addition to recording the weekly homework tasks they have been set, along with due in dates, in their yellow homework book, tasks and worksheets will also be uploaded onto Google Classroom. Should you wish to print the sheets, you may do so. They can then be completed and stuck into the homework book. However, your child can also refer to the sheet on the screen without printing it and then write just the answers in their homework book. At this stage we are not asking that any tasks be handed in via Google Classroom. The work will be marked at school. Homework should not be arduous, but 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 secondary school. Along with approximately ten minutes of reading which we expect them to do each evening where possible whether it's with you or independently, we 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/ grammar activity, or written task and the maths homework will follow topics we cover in class. Generally, the activities will be given on a Friday and homework books containing completed homework (whether these are printed sheets or written answers) should be handed back by Wednesday.

Please feel free to assist your child with homework 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 and instructions will be available on Google Classroom. 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. If you feel your child has worked to the best of their ability for a sufficient length of time but a homework task is not completed, please make a note and sign their homework book to indicate this.

P.E.

P.E. is timetabled for Tuesday and Thursday so your child will need to wear their PE kit in school on these days. For this term, PE sessions will be outdoors so it is important that they have trainers to change into and, on colder days, track suit trousers and tops (please refer to the school web site for uniform details.) We would be most grateful if you could check regularly that all clothing is marked with your child's name as, as a parent, you are not currently able to come on site and look in lost property.

Classroom equipment

Part of developing the children's independence involves bringing to school, and taking responsibility for, their own equipment. It would be helpful, therefore, if the children were given:

2 x pencils (HB grade), rubber, sharpener, handwriting pen (not a biro or cartridge pen please), child-safe pair of scissors, glue stick, 30cm clear, rigid, ruler and colouring pencil crayons in an easily cleaned, plastic pencil case. They should also have a water bottle, a packed lunch (unless a school lunch has been ordered - please no products containing nuts), reading book and a packet of tissues.

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 in the smallest available bag.

A reminder that snacks for break time should be something healthy and nutritious to help with learning and focus. Items like crisps or chocolate are not an appropriate snack and the children have discussed this with me in class.

Curriculum

SATs testing will go ahead in May 2025. 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 we will be teaching formal grammar lessons as well as exploring a range of genres in reading and writing sessions.

We have begun the term by studying 'The Path' with a focus on a gentler, more contemplative return to school, reflecting our school vision of love and growth. Whatever path we take, we will be met with challenges and obstacles but by being kind and facing these with resilience we can overcome them. This was a brilliant text to frame the start of the new school year. SATs reading comprehension can be particularly challenging, so reading remains a key focus in Year 6 and at school we study some tricky texts. 'Macbeth' is our first key text, with themes which are often studied at GCSE level. Our focus is on the plot although we do look at some Shakespearian language as part of our study. We make use of the BBC teach videos and some adapted texts which are appropriate to the Year 6 age range. Previous years have loved exploring the story and generated some brilliantly creative writing from it. At home, you can help us by exposing your child to a range of reading material. Along with their reading book, do they ever pick up a newspaper or could you subscribe to a child's magazine? Pupils are allowed to borrow books from our class bookshelf (as some have already), as long as these are returned. We hope that by talking about, and giving them a variety of texts, plays, poems, journals, fiction, non-fiction, they will become increasingly enthused and engaged with reading.

In Maths we will be consolidating place value and the four operations (addition, subtraction, division and multiplication). We will also consolidate basic skills like times tables fluency. 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 a range of topics.

In Science our first topics will be light and electricity. In Humanities, we will focus on crime and punishment through the ages. 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 be taught Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) and how to play the steel pans in Music. We have recently invested in a new scheme for PSHE using Kapow, and it is offering the children some fantastic ways to explore the world around them. This term, our topic is Families & Relationships, during which we will develop our understanding and recognition of family types, dynamics and the impact these close connections can have on us. In Art we will be looking at photography and how photos can be edited. The children will be using their ICT skills to enhance the whole curriculum in a number of ways, with an introductory focus being on internet safety, before we look at our term topic, which is the history of computers, code-breaking and the significance of Bletchley Park. 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 your child to walk home independently, we require written confirmation of this (either email or signed letter). Year 6 pupils are also permitted to bring a mobile phone to school. At the start of the day mobiles are collected and are locked away securely. As part of safeguarding procedures children are not allowed to use phones during the day. Mobiles are returned at 3:15pm should they require them to walk home. The class group is officially dismissed at 3:15 pm.

If you require clarification on anything, or wish to contact myself or any other member of staff, please email the school office.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas Redjeb

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/

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

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

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