



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

School Lane, Cookham,

Berkshire SL6 9QJ

Telephone: 01628 523766

email: office@holytrinitysch.co.uk

Website: www.holytrinitysch.co.uk

Head Teacher: Miss Anna Smith

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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. Whitson 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.

Last term we welcomed a new teaching assistant to our class, so the Gosling staffing for the summer term is;

Ms. O'Reilly – class teacher

Mr. Whitson – trainee teacher

Mrs. Perry – class TA on Monday, Thursday and Friday

Mrs. Ali – class TA on a Tuesday and Wednesday

Mr. Whittle – PE

Mrs. Pow – Spanish

Reading

The children have made fantastic progress with their reading, and I am keen that this should continue. I noticed last term that some children are starting to lose momentum with reading at home and 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. 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 are set on a Wednesday until the following Wednesday when we will do our hive test. We do check with the children how often they are practicing 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 hive test and in their normal work. Little and often has better results than going on once a week for a long period of time. The booster spelling group also has additional words they can work on.

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 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.

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 usually every fortnight.

In **maths** this term we start with the second part of our Fractions topic, followed by Money and Time. There is a large amount of content particularly with this topic and it would be very helpful for your child if you could start talking about 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 for everyone, 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 called 'It's My body' all about making safe choices to keep ourselves healthy and then we move to a topic called 'Aiming High – how can I use my skills to achieve my goals?'

Our **Design Technology** topic will link with our Roman topic and we will be researching, designing and making shields used by different legions and Celtic tribes. Then we move to **Art** and explore sculptures and creating 3-D works.

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 and in the RBWM 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 Wednesday 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 diaries!

Computing this term will be developing the skills to produce video trailers on iPads.

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 weekly 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 historical civilizations. We will, of course, theme ours around the Romans. 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