



## Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head Teacher: Miss Anna Smith

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy Easter and welcome back to the start of a new term. We are delighted to be in school again. To ensure things run effectively in the coming two terms 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 few half-terms at Holy Trinity before moving on to secondary school.

### Reading

Your child should continue to fill in their Reading Diary. 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 entries in school and it is the expectation that they read at home each evening whenever possible. Children benefit enormously from shared reading 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. With Reading Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) coming up, it is imperative your child reads regularly as this supports and consolidates all of the learning we do at school.

### Homework

Homework tasks will continue to be set using Google Classroom. The work will be marked at school independently or by me. Generally, the activities will be given on a Thursday or Friday and homework books containing completed homework (whether these are printed sheets or written answers) should be handed back on Wednesday. With the transition to secondary school on the horizon, it is important the children become prepared for the continuing expectations of homework which they will be faced with. Your support in this is greatly appreciated.

### 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 nut or sesame products), reading book, a packet of tissues and some hand sanitiser.

The space that they have to hang their coats and bags during the day is limited so we would be grateful if you can still supervise them in bringing only these essential items to school in the smallest available bag.

### Curriculum

SATs testing will go ahead in May 2024. The SATs tests are scheduled for the week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May. The test dates and the papers for each day are scheduled as follows:

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May = English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May = English Reading
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May = Mathematics papers 1 and 2
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May = Mathematics paper 3

You may wish to see for yourself the sample tests the Government have published so that you can understand 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 the pace of learning will be fast this term.

To prepare the pupils 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 already studied 'Macbeth' and 'War Horse' this year and are now moving on to read 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman. SATs reading comprehension can be particularly challenging, so we will also be incorporating elements of Guided Reading and comprehension practice

regularly. 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 could 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 with reading. They are constantly exposed to new genres and writing styles at school, but this can be further supported by your help at home.

In Maths we have covered most of the key areas of the curriculum, with only some elements of shape and position left to cover before SATs. Due to this, there are several times throughout the week where we look back on content already covered and practice key skills. However, if you feel your child needs support in specific areas, please do not hesitate to contact us and we can arrange some further support. This year there continues to be an even greater emphasis on investigative maths in order to deepen the pupils understanding of a range of topics.

While English and Maths are understandably a key focus, our Foundation topics are equally exciting. We will be returning to History and studying how individuals have influenced civil rights over time. This is sure to be a thought-provoking topic! Our theme for RE this term looks at our understanding of God through the lesson of Islam. In PSHE we will be investigating VIPs (Very important people), before moving onto Changing Friendships and transition to secondary school. In Art we are looking at expressing ourselves through a study of Mayan artwork, while in Design and Technology we will be Navigating the World, creating digital technologies. Music continues to be provided by our steel pan expert, but there will also be some development of our own music using technology to create different music mixes. Computing this term will be developing the skills to produce music on iPads. Mrs Pow will continue to teach French as we prepare for the transition to foreign language lessons at secondary school. P.E remains on the timetable for Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning, with Mr. Whittle. This term the children will be keeping active with dance and athletics. We are very fortunate to have Mrs Lucas, our dance specialist, working with the children developing a dance for a performance during our Art and Culture Week. We have two themed weeks coming up after half term. The first one is Arts and Culture. Then, at the end of the year we will have out Sports Week.

Of course, perhaps the most exciting thing to look forward to this term is the Devon trip. Please feel free to contact us at any point if you have any concerns or queries about this trip.

With so much happening, it promises to be another busy and challenging term, but one that the pupils are facing with an excellent Growth Mindset attitude.

#### **End of day arrangements**

Finally, please note that if you would like your child to walk home independently, we require written confirmation of this. Thank you to nearly all of you who have already emailed or written in to confirm this! 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 as pupils leave school. The class group is officially dismissed at 3:15 pm.

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

Yours sincerely,

*Thomas Redjeb*

#### **Useful websites:**

BBC Bitesize KS2

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

Study Ladder

[www.studyladder.co.uk](http://www.studyladder.co.uk)

Maths

[http://www.transum.org/Software/SW/Starter\\_of\\_the\\_day/](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>

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