



## Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head Teacher: Miss Anna Smith

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term. We are already well into our learning for the term and the children have made a great start. This newsletter will let you know what is happening over the coming weeks up until Easter with any changes that you need to know about made clear.

The staff in Goslings remains unchanged, swimming lessons have now concluded.

### Reading

The children are, on the whole, very good at handing in their reading diaries daily and changing their books - they should continue to do this so we can monitor their engagement and progress. They should continue to read daily wherever possible, now recording their own reading and making a comment about what they have read. Ideas for what to write about have been discussed with them and suggested ideas can now be found in a note in the front of their diary. There has been a shift in expectations in that half of the entries should now be from them, but please feel free to record any comments you have in their diaries too.

### Homework

Homework will continue to be set using Google Classroom. It will be clearly indicated and accessible via your child's login. This will continue to be an English and Maths task, with some alternative tasks due to themed weeks etc. It will be set on a THURSDAY to be completed by the following TUESDAY. The children may print the homework task and stick the sheets into their book or (and preferably) may answer set questions directly into their pink homework book. Please remind the children to present their work with the same care and layout as they do in school i.e. in pencil using a ruler to underline.

### Spellings

We will continue to using Spelling Shed this term for weekly spelling AND their 'Spelling Star', which they can access through their Spelling Shed account. The lists are also set on Google Classroom if your child prefers to revise them on paper. Please ensure the children learn their Spelling Star words over the term rather than the week before, as this method allows the trickier words to form in their long-term memory rather than learning for the test.

The weekly spellings will be set on WEDNESDAY and then tested the following WEDNESDAY. The Spelling Shed login details for your child can be found inside their reading diaries and homework books. The Spelling Star will be tested at the end of term, with a possible practice test beforehand so they can see what they need to work on in enough time.

### Times Tables

The children can log in to Times Tables Rock Stars or [timestables.co.uk](http://timestables.co.uk), which really helps them to develop fluency in their tables. This is a focus over spring to strengthen their maths skills across the different topics. We are mindful of not setting too much work online - little and often has far greater educational benefits than children being on these apps for long periods once a week. Please focus on 4's, 8's and 3's.

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

### P.E.

Gosling Class will still be having P.E on a Monday morning with Mr. Whittle and on a Thursday afternoon when they will now do Gymnastics with an external coach. On these days the children should come to school in their PE kits, staying in them all day. Some sessions will be indoors others outdoors so it is important that the children have trainers

in school. The uniform is polo shirts (with or without the school logo) and shorts though, as we are now in winter, the children may prefer track suit bottoms instead of shorts. Please see the website for information about school uniform. ALL items of uniform should be named. We are always grateful to parents who do this; it is incredibly helpful as we often spend considerable amounts of time trying to reunite children with unnamed uniform.

## **Classroom Equipment**

Children in Key Stage 2 are required to bring their own equipment to school. This enables them to develop independence and a responsible attitude because the emphasis is on them taking care of it.

It would be helpful therefore if the children had these items in school every day;

2x sharp HB pencils, colouring pencils, rubber, sharpener, 30cm ruler (preferably a rigid one), glue stick and a child's scissors.

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 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 classes with severe allergies.

As cloakroom space is limited, please ensure your child has a bag which is suitable for their needs and not oversized.

## **Curriculum**

In **English**, our text this term is 'Wind in the Willows' that links well with our local study which we will undertake in Spring 2. As previously outlined, we continue to teach spelling using Spelling Shed with punctuation and grammar lessons throughout the week. A Big Write will be undertaken every other Friday.

In **Maths** the children will be using their knowledge of the 3, 4 and 8 times table to explore multiplication and division facts of bigger numbers so it is vital that they continue to work on rapid recall of these tables in order to make optimal progress. We will then look at length and perimeter, fractions and mass and capacity.

In **Science** this term, the topic will be bones, joints and muscles. In Spring 2 we will be studying forces with a focus on magnets.

We swap history for **Geography** this term. In Spring 1 we look at the U.K. and use atlases to identify capital cities, other cities, counties, rivers, seas and mountain ranges. We look closer to home in Spring 2 developing our mapping skills and compass point knowledge to explore the local area.

Our theme for **RE** this term looks at Judaism and we explore whether a Jewish child is free to choose the way they live. We look at general rules as well as religious rules and how they came about for Jewish people. In Spring 2 we hone in on the Jewish festival of Passover and consider whether Easter for Christians makes sense without this event.

In **PSHE** we will begin the topic on Safety & The Changing Body (E-Safety & First Aid) before moving onto our wider responsibilities in Citizenship (local democracy & charity).

Our **Design Technology** topic will be based on pneumatic toys and how they work. In Spring 2 we undertake an **Art** topic on drawing, focusing on how drawing can express movement, depth and emotion.

**Music** develops the children's skills on the glockenspiel and musical improvisation whilst getting ready for their JMF performance in June. **Computing** will develop the children's programming skills using the program 'Scratch'.

Mrs Pow will continue to teach **Spanish** to Goslings in a weekly session, mainly focussing on verbal skills. They will be taught how to count, develop their vocabulary for names of items as well as learning a range of adjectives to describe things.

Our themed week will be Book Week to be held in March. The school's weekly newsletter will give more details of this in time.

We look forward to teaching your child again this term and having a very productive few weeks on the run up to Easter. Once again, if there is anything you are unsure of, please contact us through the office and we will liaise back with you.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

*Miss Law & Mr. Reynolds*