



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

Executive Principal: Mr Dave Rooney

January 2018

Dear Parent

I hope you had a fantastic Christmas and New Year with friends and family. Thanks again for everything you did for me at the end last term before my wedding. Rachel and I had an absolutely amazing day and I'm happy to report the marriage is going well!

The children have been working hard and have made an excellent start to the new term. I hope the following information is useful and will give you a better picture of what we will be focusing on this term.

Reading

Please continue to listen to read with your child as often as possible and in particular share thoughts on a book, discussing language, characters' reactions, plot etc. Feel free to record any positive comments you have about your child's reading in their reading book. This is a book for your use too. Mrs Butler will continue to check these every day.

Homework

I will continue to set one piece of maths and one piece of literacy homework a week which should take no longer than an hour to complete. Continuing on from last term, homework will be set on a Friday it should be handed in on Tuesday of the following week. Please feel free to assist your child with tasks, but often they will be consolidation activities which, for the most part, they should be able to complete independently. Presentation is an important element of completing written homework successfully so please reinforce this to your child.

P.E.

P.E. continues to be timetabled on Thursdays and Fridays so please ensure your child has kit on these days. Thursdays will be Hockey with Jenny Martin from Marlow Hockey on the playground so it is important that they have trainers and, on colder days, track suit trousers and tops. On Fridays, the children will be doing circuit training, agility work and fitness testing with me in the hall.

Class room equipment

The school will provide the children with all the necessary equipment, however if your child wishes to bring in their own pencil case it is fine. The space that they have to hang their coats and bags during the day is limited so I would be grateful if you can supervise them in bringing only essential items to school.

Curriculum

I hope that your child talks positively about the things we have done in class over the 1st term. I'm delighted with the children's attitude to learning and the excellent progress they have made.

We have begun the second term by writing theatre and books reviews of War Horse. In particular, we have paid close attention to the production of War Horse and how to promote the performance. We have now just started work on narrative film and have begun analysing 'The Piano' by Aiden Gibbons. I am thrilled with how the children's writing has developed over the first term and in particular their use of language and high level punctuation. As with literacy last term, the children will work on the skills needed in this genre throughout the week and on Friday will produce a quality, focused piece of writing in 'The Big Write.' The focus on VCOP (vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation) remains an important part of every lesson as well as understanding of grammar rules. I hope the children are now understand the importance of thinking through each sentence carefully to see if it can be improved before writing it.

In Maths, we have begun the term focusing on properties of shapes, measures, reading scales and multiplying decimals. With problem solving being a priority of the new curriculum and with the SATs looming, much of the work this term will be focused on developing the children's reasoning and problem solving skills. There will also be some consolidation of long multiplication and division methods as well as multiples, factors, prime numbers and patterns.

In Science we will be looking at evolution. We will learn about key scientists who have influenced our understanding of the world, animal and human adaptation and environments.

In History the children are learning the Tudors and Henry VII. As part of the curriculum, we will also look at crime and punishment and how witches were treated.

As part of our R.E programme of study, we will consider how clothing can express belief and give people a sense of identity. As part of our coverage of the curriculum, we will continue to investigate areas we began studying in previous weeks.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 8th March Trip to Metro Bank

Yours faithfully,

Martin Gosling