



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 back and very much hope that you and your child are beginning to settle well into the new 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 entries in school and it is the expectation that they read at home each evening if at all possible. If you are able to find time to read with your child and particularly share thoughts on a book, discussing language, punctuation, characters' reactions, plot etc. they would benefit enormously. 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 now 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 of course 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 senior school. Along with approximately twenty 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 Thursday and homework books containing completed homework (whether these are printed sheets or written answers) should be handed back on Tuesday. Children will also be given their weekly spelling list on a Monday to be tested on the following Monday.

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 hand writing 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 Monday and Tuesday afternoons 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. Trainers should be left in school every day for the Daily Mile. (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. This is particularly important for this term as government guidelines advise against the school providing communal items. 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 (please note our water fountain cannot be used for fear of infection), a packed lunch

(unless a school lunch has been ordered-please no nut 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 supervise them in bringing only these essential items to school in the smallest available bag.

Curriculum

We are currently expecting that SATs testing will go ahead in May 2021. For the Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) in this year, it is assumed currently that the process will follow the same pattern as the four years prior to 2020, with the children tested on their reading comprehension, spelling, knowledge of grammar and punctuation and maths. 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 'Here We Are' with a focus on a gentler, more contemplative return to school. Our overall aim is to ensure that, whilst any gaps created by the fact that the children were not in school for a prolonged period, are filled, they will also meet the standards expected by secondary schools.

With the SATs reading comprehension being particularly challenging, reading remains a key focus. 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 do 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.

In Maths we will be consolidating our quick recall of multiplication and division facts – the children are being encouraged to work through the times table and competency certificates quickly. 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 topic will be life cycles with a reference to puberty as this was not covered in the summer term of Year 5. To cover 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 learn German and play the steel pans. Steel pans lessons will take place every other week for a double session to prevent any cross contamination between the bubbles. The children will be using their ICT skills to enhance the whole curriculum in a number of ways. 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. Year 6 pupils are 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 2:50 pm should they require them to walk home. The year bubble is officially dismissed at 2:50 pm but children with siblings in other year groups will wait in the classroom until the final sibling's designated home time. In order to prevent bubbles from merging, your punctuality is very much appreciated.

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

Yours faithfully,

Jill Cornwell

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/

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>