



## **Holy Trinity C of E Primary School**

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Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

Executive Principal: Mr Dave Rooney

September, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new year. I hope that you had a thoroughly enjoyable holiday and are now settled back into the school routines. The first few days have been brilliant in Year 4 and the children have all begun the year with high expectations. I trust that the following information is useful and will help to make the year run as smoothly as possible.

### **Reading**

Your child has been given a new reading diary in which they will keep a daily record of their reading. They are to fill out each time they read individually or are heard read. The children understand that every evening they take home their reading diaries and bring it back to school the next day having recorded the reading they have done that evening at home. The children are to complete the comment box in as full a detail as possible (ideas on how to fill in their diaries are stuck at the front). Please feel free to record any positive comments in your child's reading diary as well, as this is a book for you to complete too. If the diaries are either not completed or are not completed to a high standard, the children understand that they will be kept in at lunchtime to do so (except in special circumstances).

I aim to hear the children read as often as possible, however this is not always as regular as I would like. It is still extremely important for your child to read aloud to someone at home. I suggest that your child reads aloud to an adult for ten minutes at least two times a week as this will benefit them tremendously. Mr Redjeb will be checking your child's reading diary every day so if you have any comments about their reading please comment inside.

### **Homework**

The children will be set homework on a weekly basis. Usually, this will be one piece of English homework (which will be a comprehension most weeks, with a book review once a term) and one piece of Maths homework. Although, homework may occasionally be a piece of topic work, RE work, a science activity or some research. The homework will be given out every Thursday and I will expect the homework in on the following Tuesday. For the majority of the time, the homework will be a follow up on the learning from the week, although will sometimes be preparation for the following week. Please encourage your child to complete their homework independently, however please feel free to assist your child with tasks if you so wish. Presentation is always key, as it is in their school books, so I expect the homework to follow the same expectations. A homework sticker will be stuck in at the top of the homework page with clear instructions. If it is not clear, please do not hesitate to ask for a further explanation.

Along with their homework, the children will also be given a list of weekly spellings which will be tested on the Tuesday when the rest of the homework is due in. The children carried out a diagnostic spelling test at the start of the year to indicate which phase they will begin at from a specific spelling scheme.

At the start of each term the children will be given a spelling star to learn. These consist of 20 words which the children commonly misspell, some of which are topic words and other words which the children are expected to know by the end of Year 4. The date of the spelling star test will be written on the first homework sticker of each term, with a reminder on the homework sticker prior to the test week.

### **P.E.**

P.E. is timetabled for Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning, so your child will need to have kit in school on these days. Most of our sessions while the weather remains fine will be outdoors so it is important that they have trainers and, on colder days, track suit trousers and tops. However for inside P.E. lessons they will need t-shirts and shorts. More information regarding P.E. uniform can be found on the school website. If you could please check regularly that your child's name is clearly visible in clothing so that any missing clothing can make its way back to its rightful owner!

It is advised that your child's P.E. kit is at school for the week and taken home at the weekend if it needs a wash. Therefore, your child will always have their P.E. kit ready for when it is needed.

## **Classroom equipment**

The school will provide the children with all the necessary equipment, however if your child wishes to bring in their own pencil case that is fine. When your child gains their handwriting licence, they will be able to use a blue handwriting pen (not a biro) for all writing, except for maths where they will use a pencil.

## **Curriculum**

We have a busy but action-packed, enjoyable term ahead.

In English, Year 4's topic this term is 'Stories from imaginary worlds' and the children will focus on the book 'Billy and the Minpins' by Roald Dahl. They will be looking at character descriptions, setting descriptions, letter writing, diary entries, and narrative writing. The children will also complete weekly comprehension tasks as well as learning specific spelling, punctuation and grammar.

In maths this term, the children will be learning their quick recall of multiplication and division facts. By the end of the year, it is the expectation that the children will know **all** multiplication and division facts (where appropriate) – the children are aware of this. Please support your child to achieve this as it will really help their maths in the years to come. Also in maths the children will be looking at: place value, shape, multiplication and problem solving, addition and subtraction, factor pairs, multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100, inverse calculations and word problems.

In Science this term, the children will be learning about 'Animals, including humans' and in particular the digestive system. The children will be able to name the organs involved in the digestive systems and know some of their functions. They will go on to looking further at the teeth and mouth and understanding food chains and feeding relationships.

The focus in Geography this term is Atlas and Map work and the children have already begun labelling the seven continents and five oceans on a world map.

In Art the children will be studying the artist Pablo Picasso. The children will be exploring the different artistic periods/styles he went through and will paint and draw in a Picasso style.

The focus for RE this term is Hinduism. The children have begun looking at Hindu artefacts and know who founded Hinduism and where. Their learning will continue throughout the term where they will name some of the Hindu Gods and understand important Hindu symbols.

In computing we will be looking at different programming skills and the children will also be using the iPads and Netbooks to enhance their learning across the whole curriculum. The children will look at staying safe on the internet but please keep reminding the children of this message at home.

On Thursday afternoons, the children will continue learning French with Mrs Thandi and the theme in SMSC for this term will be new beginnings.

## **Dates for the diary**

- Parent consultations – 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November

On a final note, my door is always open so if you have any concerns or want to discuss your child/the school day for any reason, please feel free to pop in and speak to me.

Yours faithfully,

Millie Davies