



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

School Lane, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9QJ

Telephone: 01628 523766

email: office@holytrinitysch.co.uk

Website: www.holytrinitycofeprimaryschoolcookham.co.uk

Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

Executive Principal: Mr Dave Rooney

January, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. I hope that you had a thoroughly enjoyable Christmas and New Year and are now settled back into the school routines. The beginning of term has been great in year 4 and the children have all begun the term with high expectations. I trust that the following information is useful.

Reading

The children are now fully aware of the high expectations when completing their reading diary daily and are successfully meeting these. Please continue to ensure that your child continues to fill out their reading diary every evening. By taking their reading diary home each night, with the expectation that it will be brought back to school the next day to be checked, has helped significantly with their organisation and independence. As before, the children should continue to complete the comment box in as full a detail as possible. To name a few ideas they could write: a summary about what they have just read; a prediction about what might happen next; a brief character description; comment on what age they think the book is suitable for and why or write down any new words they come across and find out and write the definition beside it.

Continuing on from last term, it is still highly important and beneficial for your child if you are able to, from time to time, read with them and share your thoughts on a book. Mr Redjeb will continue to check your child's reading diary every morning so if you have any comments about their reading then please comment inside.

Homework

As a reminder, the children will continue to be set homework on a weekly basis. As before, this will be one piece of English homework and one piece of Maths homework although may occasionally be a piece of topic work, RE work, a science activity or some research. Generally, the homework will be given out every Thursday and I will expect the homework in on the following Tuesday. Homework should be completed 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. Spelling Star words will continue to be issued at the start of each term. The children are working incredibly hard to ensure that they achieve their Spelling Star. Please help them in achieving their Spelling Star by learning these words regularly. Revising past Spelling Star words will also be beneficial to their learning.

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. When the weather is fine, the P.E. session on Wednesday afternoon will be outside so it is important that they have trainers and, on colder days, track suit trousers and top. On Friday mornings, P.E. will be inside as the children focus on gymnastics. 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 so that any missing clothing can make its way back to its rightful owner!

Your child will also continue to take part in the daily mile. For this they will need their trainers every day. This is usually completed towards the end of the day although does sometimes change dependent on the day itself. The

children are enjoying taking part in the daily mile and I hope you can agree with me that it is supporting their mental and physical fitness and wellbeing!

Following on from this, 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. ready for when it is needed.

Classroom equipment

As a reminder, 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. 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 brilliant term ahead.

In English, our topic is 'Stories with a historical setting' and we are reading the book 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo. We will be looking at descriptive writing, newspaper written reports, news reports, advertisements, character profiles and letter writing.

In Maths, we will be looking at addition and subtraction using the column method, short multiplication, division, factor pairs, roman numerals, time and money problems, shapes, translations and angles. Please continue testing your children on their times tables if they have not achieved all their certificates. Remind your child to ask me to test them if they are ready for any tables! Knowing their tables is really helping their maths so far this year!

In Science this term, the children will be learning about states of matter. The children will look at materials which are a solid or liquid and their characteristics. They will then go on to looking at gases, temperature, evaporation and condensation. Year 4's focus in History will be the Anglo-Saxons. This will be a cross-curricular benefit to our English book 'Beowulf'. The children will be covering D.T. this term and as our focus in History is Anglo-Saxons, the children will be looking at Anglo-Saxon art and artefacts. They will enjoy using the clay later on in the term.

The focus for RE this term is pilgrimage. The children have started looking at what is meant by pilgrimage and have thought about a place which is special to them. They will go on to learning about different Christian places of pilgrimage as well as some Hindu places of pilgrimage. Year 4 will continue to learn French with Mrs Thandi this term.

Whole school events and those related to Year 4 specifically will be published in weekly newsletters and on the website so please do take note of these.

If you have any further questions or need any clarification, please feel free to catch me before or after school and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Millie Davies