

September 17th 2024



Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family had a lovely summer break and got to enjoy some quality time together. I am looking forward to teaching the fantastic class we have this year; they have already made a super start!

The class webpage will be updated each half term showing what we are learning and some pictures of what your children have been doing in class. There will be a copy of the topic web, which shows what they are learning, and you will also get a printed copy sent home. There is also the fortnightly newsletter to keep you up to date with important dates and information.

This year, Squirrels will be supported by Ms Woodall and Mrs Hix. Mrs Lucy Cooper will be teaching RE and Mrs Gilbertson will continue to teach music.

PE

This year, children have PE on a Tuesday with Mr Beresford as last year. They will also have PE on a Thursday with me, unless we have forest school or a competition that week. Please ensure they come to school in their correct PE kits (dark bottoms and white t-shirt) and trainers. If the weather is wet, then please also send them with dry socks and their school shoes, as they will still use the pitch and yard for PE where possible. We encourage a positive attitude towards PE as it is so important for physical and mental health and it is wonderful to see them taking part. If you have a child with ear piercings that cannot be removed, please also send tape or plasters so these can be covered.

Spellings

New spellings will be taught on a Friday and tested the following Friday morning. These will include spelling rules and word families, as well as statutory Y5/6 spellings. A paper copy of the half termly list will be sent at the start of each half term and they will also be available on the website.

Homework

Both year groups will have a weekly piece of homework that will be linked to what they are learning in class. Some pieces of homework will be linked to upcoming lessons, so it is important it is completed in time. Tasks will be uploaded to Seesaw on a Tuesday and are then due by the following Monday. Your child will be given a login sheet with a code for Seesaw. Later in the year, children will receive homework books with the pages to complete added to Seesaw.

Reading

Reading is important throughout the school and we promote a positive reading environment in our classroom. All children will have at least one reading book and they can bring a book between home and school. We always have a class text (usually linked to topic) and time is set aside to read as a class most days. Each child has a reading record where adults can record what has been read and write comments. We would like you to read with your child at least 5 times a week, talk to them about what they have read and make a record of it in their reading record. We also encourage children to read across a wide variety of genres and texts. Please ensure the reading record comes back to school each day. Children are encouraged to share their book recommendations with their peers, discuss their favourite authors and promote positive reading habits to the younger children.

I know home life can be very busy, so I appreciate your support in helping children learn their spellings, complete their homework and ensure they read. It helps them extend their knowledge, promote a positive attitude to learning / reading and prepare them for secondary school.

Children can bring one bag to school, if necessary, but nothing too large as there is limited cloakroom space. Please ensure all uniform, bags and water bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name. Water bottles are kept in the class room and children are encouraged to drink before and after every lesson and break – the bottles are taken onto the yard by water monitors at lunchtime. They can easily be refilled in Rabbit class, just next door. It is vital to develop a positive approach to healthy hydration so please DO make sure they have a bottle in school at all times.

If you have any questions or concerns, then please do not hesitate to ring the school office or make an appointment to have a chat.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon and a happy school year.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Barrett