Primary 3 Fishermoss August 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school and the start of Primary 3. The children have settled down well into their new routine and we have all had an enjoyable two weeks taking the opportunity to get to know each other better. I will detail below some helpful information and ideas including an outline of the learning and experiences in the coming term.

Please ensure that all school clothing, including jackets, gym kit (shorts, t-shirt and gym shoes) are clearly named. Please provide two drawstring bags; one for hanging shoes on pegs and a gym kit bag. This will help minimise lost property, save time and make it easier for children to store kit in their tray or take home for laundering as necessary.

In order to stay hydrated, we encourage children to drink water regularly during class time. Please provide a non-spill, reusable, named plastic drinks bottle (which should contain water as opposed to juice) and remind your child to take it home daily for cleaning.

P.E. this term will focus on ball skills and team games. Weather permitting, we will take the opportunity to get active outdoors. For art activities, please provide an apron or oversized old shirt to cover and protect clothing, This, along with P.E kit and gym shoes, should be kept in school.

Weekly spelling has begun with spelling patterns and sounds being taught weekly for home revision and consolidation. Please take the opportunity to discuss the sound being revised and alternative spellings of the sound, for example ‘ph’ for photo is the same **sound** as ‘f’ for fish as well as encouraging spotting these sounds and spellings in their reading books too. Assessment of spelling and these sounds will be ongoing and a check-up test on a Friday. Please refer to the useful homework revision ideas in diaries and reassure children not to be anxious about this or other homework activities. Reading will be taught every second day so please take time to hear your child read and discuss the content of their book to support their understanding as well as sounding out words and engaging them in questioning, as this is most beneficial. Please note that across all P3 classes, children will be reading a wide variety of books and genres from different reading schemes. The purpose of this is to further develop comprehension skills, to enrich and extend children’s vocabulary by exposing them to less familiar words which will frequently, particularly so in factual books, necessitate your support in sounding out words. Children will also benefit in the variation of genres, such as factual books, poems and plays, in terms of stimulating individual interests in reading and inspiring their writing.

In numeracy, we will be building up the concept of multiplication and division by grouping objects into equal sets. Please take any opportunity to count together in twos, fives and tens as this will reinforce what they will be learning in the coming months. We will also be working on coin recognition up to £1 and consolidation of number bonds up to 20. Please support your child’s learning by taking advantage of opportunities to add and subtract and recognise coins when out shopping or, for example, by asking them how many sets of cutlery are needed when setting the table. It would also be helpful to introduce them to recognising clock hands and the time on the hour and half past the hour and discussing the calendar as this will support their learning greatly when these topics are taught. Any opportunity to discuss these topics as they arise in everyday life will help consolidate understanding. I will also be attaching a note in diaries of your child’s login details for ‘Sumdog’, a website which provides interactive, enjoyable games to make homework more interesting.

Frequently, in addition to spelling and reading homework, a further language or maths activity will be set, usually on a Friday for return by the following Friday. These activities will generally reflect children’s progress throughout the term and are a means of consolidating learning as well as an opportunity for you to be involved in your child’s learning as opposed to a teacher assessment. Your support in practising number facts, as we learn them in class, will be greatly appreciated.

Topic this term will be transport, in which we’ll investigate some history, with the main focus being road safety, as part of our health and wellbeing learning.

**Term 1:**

PE – Tuesday and Thursday.

Science – Thursday (Mrs Middleton - Electricity).

Library- P3 Friday weekly (please remember to return library books).

**Golden Time**

Golden time will be on a Friday afternoon for thirty minutes with five minute penalties should children break the Golden Rules. It would be helpful if you could discuss these with your child as well as the Golden Rules Agreement at the front of the Homework Diary which you were asked to sign.

In order to further support children’s social and cooperative working skills, please encourage your child to bring along a simple board game or activity suitable for sharing as opposed to electronic devices. Your support in this and in promoting appropriate, positive behaviour, in both the class and playground, is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Show and Tell will also be on Fridays, giving pupils the opportunity to share news or show an interesting photo or object and share the story behind it and why it is special to them. Please help your child to briefly discuss what they are sharing as these experiences help develop confidence and skills needed when delivering class presentations.

For individual progress reports on your child, you will be able to make an appointment to see me for a Parent/Teacher consultation on Wednesday 27th September – 6:30-8:30 or 3.45-6.15 on Thursday 28th of September. You will be given opportunity to look at some of the curriculum resources we use on Thursday November the 2nd between 6-7pm where I will be available to answer any curriculum based questions. However, should you have any queries before then, please do not hesitate to catch me in the playground or keep in touch via homework diaries.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to a happy and successful year.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Muir