Thursday 2nd November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed your October holidays! I cannot believe they are over, and we are back, heading (quickly) towards a jolly, elderly gentleman who chooses to wear red and white!!! Eek!

This term, our timetable will remain as last term:-

Monday - ICT

Music and Drama

Tuesday - Science with Mrs Middleton

Wednesday - PE in the Hall – Teamwork and Social Dancing

Thursday - Story-writing

Friday - Library and Golden Time

PE Kit consists of – White T-shirt which tucks into white, navy, grey or black shorts, standard length shorts, socks, flexible soft soled gym shoes with non-marking soles (preferably with Velcro or elastic fastening for younger pupils) all kept in a gym bag, and hair ties for longer hair.

Library will be on Fridays, so please remember to return books on Fridays.

Spelling will continue as last term, issued every Monday, after next Monday when we are having our larger spelling test to assess each child’s level. Reading will continue as near to daily as is possible. Please also keep practising your number bonds to 10, and those to 20 will be coming home this week, these are so important to basic understanding of maths and to aid rapid recall and aid mental calculations. They should be discussed and learned and practised as often as possible to offer each child a good start to all maths calculations and to further help with times tables in future, when the number patterns take more shape.

Golden time will continue on Fridays and the children are allowed to bring in toys and games with which to play during this time. Each child has 30minutes Golden time unless any of our classroom rules have been broken during the week. A child may lose five minutes, or more, depending on which rules have been broken or if more than one misdemeanour has occurred.

As always, I ask that each child has his/her own pencil case in school every day, which is checked every night for sharp writing pencils and that no items have been spoiled or are missing. Pencil sharpeners are not required in school to discourage time being wasted sharpening. Each child should also have 10 colouring pencils, which, if broken, may be sharpened in school. I am sure we can all recollect the joy of spending some time sharpening, sometimes right down to the smallest pencil in the class!

Water is, of course, always available from the water fountains in school. However, if you prefer, a water bottle may be supplied from home, filled with water. It must, however, go home every night for adequate cleaning and return, full the following day.

On Mondays, there will be some time for the children to share any personal achievements or exciting news. They can bring in any photos, certificates or medals at this time, although it does not necessarily need to be an achievement which merits a certificate, it could be a personal achievement, such as learning to ride their bike without stabilizers, or earning a badge at Beavers or Rainbows, or even a visit from Grandma and Grandpa, or attending a family wedding – in fact, anything of importance to your child.

Obviously, we rely on you to consider some additional activities at home to encourage your child’s development and progress through learning, especially if your child has been absent or in the eventuality of adverse weather conditions and school is required to close. Here are some activities you may be able to use if your child is recuperating from illness, or if the weather has been extremely bad:-

* Draw the scene from your window; add as much detail as you can.
* Make paper snowflakes or window decorations.
* Draw 6 (or more) children/snowmen. Dress each one for the weather. Each one must look different.
* Cut out the above snowmen/children and add them to a seasonal picture.
* Make 4 snowballs, take them inside. Put each one into a small bowl. Place each one in a different place. Which snowball takes longest to melt? Have a melting race! How can you speed things up? Draw your results.
* Measure the snow in your garden. Before you go out, guess where you will find the deepest/least snow.
* Put food out for the birds and then watch. How many different kinds of bird? Count them and draw them.
* Design the perfect snowy/spring/summer outfit.
* Design your own sledge/bike/scooter.
* How many winter/spring/summer/autumn words can you think of?
* Make a fantastic model with Lego, blocks, K’nex, junk etc. Then draw it carefully to show to the class.
* Go outside – make a snowman/bear/dog/house/igloo etc. Draw it or take a photograph to show to others in school.
* Think up your own snowy/seaside/spring/mountain adventure for the characters in your reading books to have. Ask someone to help you write the words and draw the pictures to make your own book – 3 or 4 pages would be fine, or more, if you have a fantastic idea!
* Make paper chains out of strips cut from old magazines/catalogues/wallpaper.
* Continue to read for enjoyment! Read any books that you have at home or that you have taken out from the library. You could choose a favourite book you have read, or had read to you by an adult. When you return to school you could tell us all about your favourite book/story and why it is your favourite.
* Don’t ever forget – practising your reading, spelling words and number bonds is always a fantastic idea!

There are lots of websites that are full of great ideas. Remember, you could use programs such as “Paint” or “2 Simple” if you have the applications at home. Others, include:

* <http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk>
* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools>
* <http://www.familylearning.og.uk>
* <http://www.tutpup.com>
* <http://www.crayola.com>
* <http://www.spellingcity.com/>
* [www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com)
* [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)

Lastly, dates for Diary – please remember to come along tomorrow night for “Show and Tell” when you can have a look at the wall and your child can, hopefully, explain some of the methods we use to learn.

Friday 10th November – Rotary Shoeboxes to be in school for collection.

Monday 13th November – Staff In-service Day – school closed to pupils.

Tuesday 14th November - Staff In-service Day – school closed to pupils.

Friday 24th November – Christmas Fayre – 6.30-8.30pm

Interim Reports – week commencing 4th December

Portlethen Santa Run – Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December

Christmas Movie Night (It’s rumoured the jolly, stout gentleman might appear!!!)

The Nativity shows are on Thursday 14th December and Friday 15th December

Academy Pantomime – Friday 15th December

Behaviour/Attitude report in Diaries w/c Monday 18th December

Cinema Day – Tuesday 19th December “Ferdinand”

Friday 22nd December (PHEWWW!!!!!) LAST DAY OF TERM!

I trust you find this information useful, and, remember, if you need a word, catch me in the playground, or put a note in the Diary, or give me a call through the office. Looking forward to another successful term!

Regards,

Shona Bloice