January 2020

Dear Parents,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope you all had a merry Christmas and a fantastic break! Goodness knows where the year has gone!

Term 3 has started well with the pupils settling down into their activities and getting back into routine. Reading homework will continue every second school day, as before and spelling continues weekly, P3 children will have a list of words as previously, and P2 children will now have a list as well, alongside some spelling activities. Other homework will be issued as appropriate.

The Primary 3 pupils will continue with multiplication and be introduced to division, having formally learned the 2 times, 5 times and 10 times tables, hopefully by heart this term. These are the easier tables so please spend time helping your child with this, as times tables are such a useful life-skill. In later years they will be expected to learn all tables, so it is important that they are confident with these ones for now. Most pupils will undertake a regular timed Tables Challenges and Beat That Maths practice. These activities are structured to allow each child to progress at their own level. No matter what stage each pupil is at, the Tables Challenge gives each pupil a goal to try and better their last score. This challenge will also extend and challenge pupils who have already mastered the 2, 5 and 10 tables, by introducing other tables and allowing them to progress through different levels with increasing difficulty. The focus with Primary 2 will continue to be addition and subtraction with number to 20, sometimes beyond as the patterns are recognised. All pupils will continue to work with money, working out totals. This is another very useful life skill which was exercised in practice when we set up a stall for our Children in Need day on November way back in November. It is so beneficial to practice use of knowledge in a practical situation when handling money. Most pupils will also be taught some estimation, rounding, fractions and time and duration as applicable for their individual needs. Mrs Storey will focus on Estimation and Rounding with P2 children, whilst Mrs Bloice will focus on quantitative number with addition and subtraction, alongside fractions and time work and P3 will focus on times tables with multiplication and division. All children will undertake problem solving activities.

Our Topic work this term will be linked to Early Man/Stone Age – the main focus will be on dwellings and shelters (linked somewhat into our last topic) but we also plan to have time to dye some t-shirts using natural materials and further explore these effects through Science and Art and Design activities. The dyed t-shirts (please send in a plain, white t-shirt if possible, although one not too greatly decorated would suffice if it was worn outside in) will also be for the costumes for our Assembly on Monday 10th February 2.30pm although further details will be issued to you nearer the time. We are also planning some clay work, jewellery work and a visit from an archaeologist! We are also looking at how cavemen ate, cooking eventually on fires and, accordingly, we are hoping we will prepare and cook a basic dish, from time to time. The pupils will be working in collaborative groups for this, where the whole class cooks at the same time. They will first observe the dish being prepared and be taught how to safely handle and use cooking equipment and food. Pupils will then go back to their own food station and follow the written recipe in their groups of 4, to prepare and cook the dish for themselves. It gives an opportunity to be an active member of a small group, experiencing how it feels to work together to achieve a common goal. Children get a huge sense of satisfaction from preparing and cooking their own food and although it takes a lot of preparation and organisation, it is worth it to see the pupils' delight in what they have made. I’m sure you will hear all about it and they may wish to cook at home too, so it would be great to encourage this. It has been proven that if children are involved in food preparation, they are more likely to eat the food. Great incentive if you have a fussy eater at home! This could be extended into Outdoor learning with Ms Sang every Wednesday morning, creating dens, shelters looking for safety and warmth and perhaps a little more cooking on an open fire!

So, our timetable over this term will include, Mrs Storey Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs Bloice Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Monday – Show and Tell and Assembly in the afternoon

Tuesday – PE with Mrs Storey and French with Ms Ruxton in the afternoon

Wednesday – Outdoor Learning with Ms Sang in the forenoon

Thursday – PE with Mrs Bloice in the forenoon

Friday – Library in the forenoon and Golden Time in the afternoon

As always, please encourage your child to have a pencil case in school every day, with three sharp pencils and an eraser, some colouring pencils are also beneficial. Please check that PE kit comes in every Monday and goes home every Friday as it is so handy to have a quick change of clothing, if necessary, e.g. wet feet. Please remember indoor shoes, gym-shoes can double up as indoor, but if you prefer, alternative indoor shoes should be made available. Please remember to check gym-shoes/indoor shoes from time to time. Water is always available to all children . If you wish to send in a water-bottle with your child, please ensure it is named and that it goes home each day for washing and refilling. Please ensure all items are named or labelled. Thanks.

Dates for Diary

Pupil Interim Reports – Friday 31stJanuary

Monday 10th February – P2/3 Class Assembly

Thursday 13th February to Wednesday 19th February – Mid-term weekend and In-service days

Friday 13th March – Sports’ Relief Day (Dress As You Please)

Friday April 3rd – end of Term 3 Term 4 begins Monday 20th April

It is going to be another very busy term!

If you wish to catch up with either of us, please catch us in the playground, put a note in the Diary or contact the office for us to call you. Many thanks for your continuing support.

Regards,

Shona Bloice and Jenny Storey