P6 Class Newsletter Term1 August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be taking the class on this year and we have already got our heads down and are working extremely hard. I hope this newsletter will give you an idea of what we will be learning this Term and give you some handy hints as to how best to support your child’s learning at home.

Your child should by now have all their belongings **labelled**, including lunchboxes and water bottles as it makes it so much easier to find the owner of lost items. Please can you ensure that your child has the following items every day

* A pencil case containing a sharp pencil, rubber, ruler, and some coloured pencils.
* An apron or over-sized shirt for Art and Science.
* A water bottle which should be FILLED AT HOME and TAKEN HOME each night.
* Their green homework folder and homework diary
* A book to keep in their trays for rainy playtimes and silent reading.

The children are RESPONSIBLE for making sure these items are in school and taken home as and when required. Please can you ensure that you have read, gone through and signed the Golden Rules in the front of the homework diary. Comments regarding attitude, behaviour and effort will be put in the diary week beginning 11th October. Please also encourage your child to check Google Classroom every few days as this is where most of the homework will be.

Our week, as always, is very busy! We are fortunate this term to have Mental Maths and Languages delivered by Miss Ruxton, and PE with Miss Kevan. PE days are Wednesday, and Friday and the pupils may wear their PE kit to school. We will have assembly, virtually for now, on a Monday and Golden Time on a Friday.

PE and Health and Wellbeing

We are focussing on **fitness, co-ordination, and teamwork** for the first part of the term. We will also be adding in **ball skills** later. In Health and Wellbeing, we will be focussing on the 8 Wellbeing indicators staring with **‘Healthy’**. As part of this we will be thinking about how to have a healthy attitude and recognising when our thoughts and feelings can start to worry us. I will be teaching the children some techniques to help when this happens, including some sessions on mindfulness. We will also be thinking about ‘**Safe’** including playground safety and keeping safe online.

Numeracy

This term we will be focussing on **place value, estimation, rounding and multiplication** in the first instance. We will be revising numbers with four digits before moving onto numbers with five digits. We will be working hard to make sure that we are confident using **addition and subtraction**, using different techniques as strategies. I cannot stress the importance of confidence with **times tables** enough, it would be very helpful if you could help your child at home by asking them to recite them to you- repeating them helps to build learning! Your child can also log onto **Sumdog** to help with this.

Numeracy homework will be issued weekly, the children will have a whole week (usually Thursday to Thursday) to complete this task. The homework is always linked to work completed in class and will give you an idea of areas studied through the week. The homework is intended to **consolidate learning and aid discussion at home**. My aim this year is to have a class of confident mathematicians! We can do it! Homework will usually be on Google Classroom.

Literacy

We will be writing stories linked with our class topic (more on that below!) and we will be focussing on our **punctuation, spelling, and speech marks**. Grammar will be taught along with writing but also as weekly lessons. We will be looking at a variety of texts including **scientific and non-fiction** texts to help our understanding of topic work. Spelling will be issued on a Monday and returned and checked in class on a Friday. Reading will be issued twice a week either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday. Pages to read and discuss as well as a Book Detective task will be issued- page 15 of the homework diary has details of all the tasks. I am mindful of how busy the week can be for parents and children, so I do leave the larger tasks and chunks of reading for issuing over the weekend. Your support in encouraging your child with reading at home is appreciated.

**Big Talk** homework will on occasion be issued. For this, the children will have a topic to discuss at home. This could include **story ideas, some project work or topical news items**. There is no requirement for anything to be written down, but sometimes a few jotted notes can help for class discussion.

Topic

I am so excited that we are studying **Space** over the next two terms! It is one of my very favourite subjects and I can’t wait to explore it with P6. The class have worked together to come up with a list of questions we can explore and ideas of ways to do it. We will be looking at the history of the **Space Race**, thinking about the **practicalities of exploring and living in space** as well as gaining an appreciation of the **vastness of the Universe** and thinking of the **size and scale** of various planets and stars. We will also be taking part in the Deep Space Diary project…more information to come!

Class Rules

We have worked together to come up with the following class rules. It would be appreciated if you could discuss these at home and make sure that your child understands what is expected in the classroom and playground.

1. We will listen to everybody and not talk over them.
2. We will respect everybody and treat them with kindness.
3. We will pay attention in class and work hard to be the best we can be, following all instructions.
4. We will take care of all property, including class resources and things that belong to other people.
5. We will be gentle with each-other, we don’t hurt people or use unkind words. We will use calm voices and not shout out.
6. We will always tell the truth.
7. We will have fun in P6!

Learning Celebration Books

The children will from time to time bring this book home to showcase a piece of work they are particularly proud of. Please sign the book and add a comment, the children can also add anything from outside school that they are proud of too!

Dates for your diary

Term and Holiday Dates Session 2021-2022

Monday 16th August 2021-Staff In-service Days-school closed to pupils

Tuesday 17th August Start of Term 1 for Pupils

Monday 27th September- Holiday- School closed to pupils and staff

Friday 15th October-Last day of Term 1 for pupils & staff

18th to 29th October 2021 - October holiday

I am looking forward to a successful and happy year with P6, as usual if you have any questions or concerns then you can note them in your child’s diary, or email or telephone the school to arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss.

With very kind regards,

Catherine Middleton