P6 Class Newsletter Term1 August 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be teaching the class 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 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 Ms Ruxton, and PE with Mrs Storey. PE days are Tuesday, and Thursday and the pupils may wear their PE kit to school. We will have assembly for Terms 1 and 2 on a Wednesday 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. We will also be thinking about ‘**Safe’** including playground safety and keeping safe online. We will also be continuing to embed the ideas and practices of **Rights Respecting Schools** into our classroom- starting with our charter and designing a display for our classroom.

Numeracy

This term (and into Term 2) 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 (or more) 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! We will also be thinking about our **money skills** and will be using our skills to **add and subtract** sums of money as well as consolidating practical skills using **coins and notes.** I update the class Google Classroom with materials to support class learning each week, including games and links to videos/activities. These can be helpful if your child finds any of the topics tricky. Maths homework will appear on Google classroom as well and could be a game, activity or a more formal worksheet depending on the topic.

Literacy

We will be writing imaginative stories in the first instance sometimes linked with our class topic (more on that below!) and we will be focussing on **scene setting, developing characters,** **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 Tuesday and returned and checked in class on a Friday. Reading will be issued twice a week either Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday. Pages to read and discuss as well as a Book Detective task will be issued- 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. We have also begun our class novel ‘Skandar and the Unicorn Thief’ by A.F.Steadman. Each Friday morning the class will be able to use the school library to select a book, it is not a problem if your child wishes to keep the book for a few weeks if they are enjoying it.

**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. We will be working together to come up with a topic plan for additional ideas and areas of research in the next week or so. 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 have stand-alone science lesson each week in Term 1 where we study a variety of outcomes linked to **forces, humans and other animals and physical processes.**

Class Charter- linked to Rights Respecting School

We have worked together to come up with the following class charter by thinking about the Rights of the Child and selecting the articles that pertain to us at school. We have written this charter together, linking it with our selected articles. 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.

**Class Charter for P6**

**Rights Holders**

1. We will take our turn to talk and listen to other opinions (Articles 12 and 28)

2. We will be kind to everybody (Article 23)

3. We will help each other (Articles 23, 17 and 12)

4. We will respect each other’s belongings (Article 16)

5. We will work hard (Articles 28 and 29)

6. We will respect all our learning and play areas (Article 29)

**Duty Bearers**

Will provide lessons and experience to challenge us (Article 28

Will listen to us and support us when we find talking hard (Articles 12 and 16)

Will make sure lessons are accessible to all and support us if we are struggling (Article 23)

Will provide a range of activities including opportunities to do our own research (Articles 17 and 29)

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

School Sponsored Walk- Friday September 29th

PSC Crazy Hair Day- Friday 6th October

Parent/Teacher Consultations- Wednesday 4th October 6-8.30pm and Thursday 5th October 3.45-6.15pm

End of Term 1 Friday 13th October

Term 2 begins Monday 30th October.

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. If you have written a diary note, please can you remind your child to bring me the diary to check in the morning.

With very kind regards,

Catherine Middleton

P6 Teacher