

September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the new school year. We are thrilled with how well the children are already settling into their classes and look forward to a super year of learning. This letter contains useful information for you and your child for this coming year.

THE CURRICULUM

The children are taught mainly in their classes although for maths your child will be in a group appropriate to their stage of learning. There are also occasions when we will work together to add variety and share skills. Some children will also participate in smaller groups for focused work. English and Maths follow the objectives of the National Curriculum. Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus.

Our topics for this year are:

Terms 1 and 2 - Pharaoh Nuff

Terms 3 and 4 - Under the Canopy

Terms 5 and 6 - Home and Away

We will send an overview as we begin each topic giving more details about the children's learning.

HOMEWORK

Maths

Homework is set on **Mathletics** each Friday, starting next week (9th September) consolidating the learning for that week. The children also have access to **Live Mathletics** where they can compete against others all over the world. Mathletes are celebrated for gaining the highest points in their class each week and the highest point scorer in the school is awarded the special **Mathlete of the Week** award which is displayed proudly in their classroom for that week.

Children continue with their **Maths Passports**, putting a real focus on quick mental recall as well as developing mental skills as they travel around the world. Please continue to support your child when practising their number bonds, times tables and other number facts.

English/Topic

English/Topic homework is presented as an activity bank with the tasks for the term along with the dates, normally every two weeks, they are due in. *Each piece of homework needs to take your child at least 40 minutes.* Focus throughout school is on handwriting and presentation, therefore please encourage your child to take care with their homework, ensuring it is well presented and neat. Please support your child with their tasks but don't do them for them!

Children in Years 3 & 4 are expected to read daily and answer questions about the text they have read. Please remember to write a comment in the Reading Record when you hear your child read. Just as you enjoy hearing your child read, he or she also enjoys hearing you read so please take time to share a book.

Spelling

We use a range of strategies in order to develop your child's spelling skills. Whilst spelling is regularly taught as an integral part of English we send home a **weekly spelling list** with appropriate words for your child to practise and learn.

They will bring their list of words home each Friday and will be tested on the following Thursday. You will know how your child has done as the test will be completed on the back of their new sheet of spellings. We are sending topic words in the first week which, although tricky, will help your child for the rest of the term.

We are asking you to support your child as he or she practises the words using the strategy of

LOOK - SAY - COVER - WRITE - CHECK

LOOK at the word. Notice the sounds / shape.

SAY the word. *Can you break it down into syllables: Wed / nes/ day?*

Any silent letters? Are there any words within words?

COVER the word.

WRITE the word. No peeking!

CHECK the word carefully. Check each letter is in the right place and correct.

Practising their words little and often works best.

Other ways you can support your child with spelling include playing word games (eg scrabble, completing word searches together) and looking for patterns in words when reading to and with your child.

We really do appreciate the additional support from home to learn these words as it will make such a big impact on your child's reading and writing. If you need further support then contact your class teacher who will be able to advise you.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Your child will need their **full P.E kit** (clearly labelled with their name) in school **every** day. It is important they have the appropriate kit; **polo shirt or t-shirt, shorts, tracksuit or sweatshirt and jogging bottoms and trainers as well as their indoor daps**. We will be outside in all weathers, unless extreme, so it is important that children have their school uniform to change back into after what could be a wet session outside.

Children in year 3 start swimming at Westonbirt pool on Thursday 29th September. Children in year 4 will swim with their first session being Thursday 24th February. A separate letter nearer the time will give full details. Please ensure that the slip and money is returned as soon as possible.

FOREST SCHOOL

We are fortunate to have Forest School this year led by Mr Knight on Fridays for a six week block. Our start dates are...

Chestnut Class - 09.09.16

Beech Class - 04.11.16

Maple Class - 07.04.17

You will receive a letter before the first session giving more information.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Your child needs to have their **reading book** and **reading record** in school every day. Children also need a **water bottle** so they can have a drink on hand in class. To help protect your child's school uniform please provide them with a suitable **apron** to wear during art activities. An old shirt, adult size, provides the perfect cover-up for messy activities.

BIRTHDAYS - We understand that children like to celebrate their special day. However due to allergies we ask that cakes and other foodstuffs are not sent into school to share with the class. Thank you for your co-operation.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Wednesday 21st September - Visit to Bristol City Museum to meet Pharaoh's people - Letter to follow

Wednesday 7th June - Friday 9th June 2017 - Following the success of our visit in June we are delighted to announce a Residential visit to The Wilderness Centre in the Forest of Dean for children in Year 4. More details when available.

Final Note

We will work hard to make sure that your child has an enjoyable and successful year of learning and look forward to your continued support and encouragement. Please feel free to approach your child's teacher to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or well being. We especially welcome help from parents and carers so if you are able to offer any help throughout the school please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs J Royle, Miss S Stemp and Mrs K Wilson