

April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're thrilled with how the children have settled back to school after the Easter break. This letter contains information relating to terms 5 and 6 and how you can help to support your child.

Curriculum information for our ECO-WARRIORS topic is now available to view on the school website.

Our **Class Book** for term 5 is **Song of the Dolphin Boy** by Elizabeth Laird. The children are very welcome to bring their own copy into school to read along with us. It is available in paperback and, whilst it is available from online retailers, we encourage you to shop locally and support *The Yellow Lighted Bookshop*. As well as being a fantastic read, it is also a powerful story about the terrible threat to the sea and all the creatures that live in it from the casual discarding of plastic waste.

FOREST SCHOOL starts on Friday 7th May for both classes. More information for each class will follow.

Spelling

-The children will continue to bring home **Spelling Lists** which show the words they need to learn, along with the date on which they will be tested. The lists consist of words either relating to the spelling pattern which we have been working on in school or statutory words from the Year 3/4 list. Practising them little and often works best in a variety of different ways.

Reading

- Please continue to encourage your child to read at home and they love reading aloud to you! Reading to someone at home not only rewards them with gold stars but also improves their reading skills and develops a love of reading for pleasure.

Maths

-Children will work through their arithmetic books. Their homework should be handed into school on Mondays. It will be checked and returned to them on Wednesdays. We would like everyone to start at **Summer Task 1** which is due on Monday 26th April.

Topic

-The tasks are sent separately, and are also available on the website, along with the dates they should be handed in.

Please encourage and support your child to complete all their homework tasks but don't do them for them! We look forward to seeing homework which is neatly presented and is done to the best of your child's ability - work which they can be proud of.

Year 4 Times Table Check

You may be aware that there are **Multiplication Tables Checks** coming in for **all children in Year 4**. Whilst it is not compulsory for this year, because of the current situation, we will still be taking part.

Here's what you need to know:

Maths is a big subject and we appreciate there's more to it than times tables and indeed there's more to times tables than learning them off by heart. However, a lot of the rich, interesting maths is all about the multiplicative relationships and these are hard to fully grasp without fluent recall of the tables. For that reason, learning multiplication facts is fundamental. We've always believed that.

They will be done within a three-week-long window starting 7th June. The children will have plenty of practice beforehand so as far as they will be concerned, it will be just more practice of their multiplication tables.

The checks consist of 25 questions, will only be multiplication and they will go up to **12×12**. The children are given six seconds per question, with three seconds rest between each question. There's nothing novel about the questions and they don't require problem solving so there's nothing to trip them up.

The results of the check are not published publicly and there's no pass or fail - just a score out of 25 marks. They're not used to compare children, they're for *us* to reflect on so that we can make the most of our provision. We're actually looking forward to seeing how the children do.

The checks are all about **remembering the multiplication facts**. That doesn't mean we'll forget all about the concepts, patterns, structures and relationships in multiplication. We learn those too because they go hand in hand with excellent recall.

Please take time and enjoy the opportunity to work with your child at home - see useful websites below. When you are practising with your child, remember you're practising for the benefit of their wider maths education, not for them to get a high score on the checks.

<https://ttrockstars.com/> Times Tables Rock Stars - children have their own log-ins

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check> - An online resource presented in exactly in the same way as the checks

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/> - A chance to practise individual times tables in a variety of ways

Finally, as it seems that Summer is definitely on the way, please ensure that your child has in school every day: a water bottle, sun hat and sun cream which they will be responsible for applying themselves. Alternatively there are sun creams available that, when applied before school, are effective all day.

Thank you for your support

Mrs Royle, Mrs Danton and Mrs Wheeler