



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

A rather belated Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term. We are already well into our learning for the term and the children have made a great start. This newsletter will let you know what is happening over the coming weeks up until Easter with any changes that you need to know about made clear.

The staff in Goslings remains largely unchanged but we will not see Mr. Reynolds until the beginning of the Summer Term as he is training in another school. Staffing is as follows:

Ms. O'Reilly – class teacher

Mr. Whittle – PE

Mrs. Pow – Spanish

Reading

The children are, on the whole, very good at handing in their reading diaries daily and changing their books - they should continue to do this so we can monitor their engagement and progress. They should continue to read daily wherever possible, now recording their own reading and making a comment about what they have read. Ideas for what to write about have been discussed with them and suggested ideas can be found in a note in the front of their diary. There has been a shift in expectations in that most entries should now be from them, but please feel free to record any comments you have in their diaries too.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set using Google Classroom. It will be clearly indicated and accessible via your child's login. It will be set on a THURSDAY to be completed by the following TUESDAY. The children may print the homework task and stick the sheets into their book or (**and preferably**) they may answer set questions directly into their yellow homework book. Please refer to the instructions given in Google Classroom, which will make the tasks given clear. Please also make sure the presentation in their homework books is as we would expect at school – date and title underlined, punctuation and capital letters included. Homework should be completed in pencil unless a child has a pen licence (in which case, it should be only in blue ink). Maths should always be completed in pencil.

As was the case last term, your child will get their Spelling Star words to learn at the start of each short term, and they will be tested on their accuracy in spelling them during the last week before we break up. In addition to daily reading, your child will be set a maths and English task on a weekly basis to complete (though this may occasionally change to incorporate other subjects). Please also encourage your child to practice the spelling set by logging into Spelling Shed (log in details are in your child's diary). I will set up a range of weekly games for the children to work on before we have the 'hive' assessment test each Tuesday. The children can also log in to Times Tables Rock Stars or timestables.co.uk, which really helps them to develop fluency in their tables. We are mindful of not setting too much work online - little and often has far greater educational benefits than children being on these apps for long periods once a week.

Homework is given to reinforce what they are learning at school so they should, for the most part, be able to complete tasks independently. However, some support may be needed.

P.E.

Gosling Class will still be having P.E on a Monday morning and Thursday afternoon with Mr. Whittle. For just a couple of weeks this January, this will change from a Monday to a Tuesday afternoon (due to some timetable issues) but we will let them know when this is the case. On these days the children should come to school in their PE kits, staying in them all day. Some sessions will be indoors others outdoors so it is important that the children have trainers in school. The uniform is polo shirts (with or without the school logo) and shorts though, as we are now in winter, the children may prefer track suit bottoms instead of shorts. Please see the website for information about school uniform. ALL

items of uniform should be named. We are always grateful to parents who do this; it is incredibly helpful as we often spend considerable amounts of time trying to reunite children with unnamed uniform.

Classroom Equipment

Children in Key Stage 2 are required to bring their own equipment to school. This enables them to develop independence and a responsible attitude because the emphasis is on them taking care of it.

It would be helpful therefore if the children had these items in school every day;

2x sharp HB pencils, colouring pencils, rubber, sharpener, 30cm ruler (preferably a rigid one), glue stick, child's scissors and a blue handwriting pen (not a biro or cartridge pen) for those with a pen licence.

These should be in a plastic, easily cleaned pencil case. Glue sticks often run out so please remember to ask your child regularly if theirs needs replacing. These are stored in their desks for their use only. It is also helpful to provide your child with hand sanitiser and tissues, a healthy fruit based snack for breaktime, a water bottle and packed lunch (unless a school lunch has been ordered). Please remember we are a nut and sesame free school as we have several children across all classes with severe allergies.

As cloakroom space is limited, please ensure your child has a bag which is suitable for their needs and not oversized.

Curriculum

In **English**, our text this term is 'Wind in the Willows' that links well with our local study which we will undertake in Spring 2. We continue to teach spelling using Spelling Shed with punctuation and grammar lessons throughout the week. A Big Write will be undertaken on most Fridays.

In **maths** the children will be using their knowledge of the 3, 4 and 8 times table to explore multiplication and division facts of bigger numbers so it is vital that they continue to work on rapid recall of these tables in order to make optimal progress. We will then look at length and perimeter, fractions and mass and capacity.

In **Science** this term, the topic will be bones, joints and muscles. In Spring 2 we will be studying forces with a focus on magnets.

We swap history for **Geography** this term. In Spring 1 we look at the U.K. and use atlases to identify capital cities, other cities, counties, rivers, seas and mountain ranges. We look closer to home in Spring 2 developing our mapping skills and compass point knowledge to explore the local area.

Our theme for **RE** this term looks at Judaism and we explore whether a Jewish child is free to choose the way they live. We look at general as well as religious rules and how they came about for Jewish people. In Spring 2 we hone in on the Jewish festival of Passover and consider whether Easter for Christians makes sense without this event.

In **PSHE** we will finish off our topic on resilience and focus on the area of First Aid and E-safety.

Our **Design Technology** topic will be based on pneumatic toys and how they work. In Spring 2 we undertake an **art** topic on drawing, focussing in on the artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

Music will be taught by me or Mrs. Lucas with a focus on playing the glockenspiel and musical improvisation.

Computing will develop the children's programming skills using the program 'Scratch'.

Mrs Pow will teach **Spanish** to Goslings in a weekly session, mainly focussing on verbal skills. They will be taught how to count, develop their vocabulary for names of items as well as learning a range of adjectives to describe things.

Our themed week will be Book Week to be held in March. The school's weekly newsletter will give more details of this in time. I am currently waiting to hear back from a provider regarding a school trip, and details will follow as soon as they are available.

I look forward to teaching your child again this term and having a very productive few weeks on the run up to Easter. Once again, if there is anything you are unsure of, please contact me through the office and I will arrange to speak to you.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Fiona O'Reilly