



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term. We hope you had a lovely Christmas break. The team are very happy to be back and the children have already made a great start to the term. This newsletter will let you know what is happening over the next few weeks with any changes outlined.

The staffing in Teals remains unchanged:

Mrs. Lucas – Class teacher (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

Mrs. Weller – Class teacher (Wednesday)

Mr. Whittle – PE

Mrs. Pow – Spanish

Reading

The children are generally very good at handing in their reading diaries on a daily basis and remembering to change their books - they should continue to do this so we can monitor their engagement and progress. They should still read on a daily basis wherever possible, recording their own reading now and making three meaningful comments a week. Ideas for what to write about have been discussed with them and can also be found in a note in the front of their diaries.

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. The instructions which we put weekly on Google Classroom will make this clear. Please make sure the presentation in their homework books is as we would expect at school with **trimmed** sheets neatly glued in with handwriting the best it can be.

As was the case last term, your child will get their Spelling Star words at the start of each short term. Their ability to spell them accurately will be assessed during the last week of that term before we break up for a holiday. In addition to daily reading and learning Spelling Star words, your child will be set a weekly maths and English task to complete (though this may occasionally change to incorporate other subjects). **Please note that the most important weekly maths task is learning and being able to rapidly recall TIMES TABLE facts up to 12 x 12. They should practice this skill for short, regular bursts of time.** For those children who are fluent at this already, there will be a maths activity to do as part of their homework task. Please also encourage your child to practice weekly spellings, which are separate from Spelling Star words, by logging into Spelling Shed (log in details in your child's diary). A range of games will be allocated to them to work on before they take the 'hive' test each Wednesday.

Homework is given to reinforce what they are learning at school so they should, for the most part, be able to complete tasks independently but some support may be needed; thank you for any help you are able to give.

P.E.

Teal Class will still be having P.E on a Monday afternoon but this term with Mrs. Lucas (Dance) and Thursday afternoon (Gymnastics) with Miss Collinwood, a specialist gymnastics teacher, overseen by Mr. Whittle. In order to prepare for the Dance Festival on Thursday 13th February, there will also be additional dance rehearsals on a Tuesday and Friday. On these days, the children should come to school in their PE kits, staying in them all day. The uniform is a polo shirt (with or without the school logo) and shorts, though as we are now in winter, the children may choose to wear track suit bottoms instead of shorts. Please see the school website for information about any aspect of school uniform and do remember that **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 items.

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 as the expectation is that they take care of it. It would be helpful, therefore, if the children brought these items to school each day this term;

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

These items should be stored in a 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. Please encourage your child to bring in only the items we have expressed and discourage your child from bringing in extraneous items. These cause distraction, can get damaged or lost and clog up desk space.

It is also helpful to provide your child with tissues, a healthy fruit or vegetable based snack for breaktime, a replenished water bottle and packed lunch (unless a school lunch has been pre-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**, this term we are studying Poetry genres based on dragons. This links well to our class shared text which will be 'How to Train your Dragon' in Spring 2. We continue to teach spelling using Spelling Shed and will teach punctuation and grammar alongside this with a Big Write completed most Fridays.

In **maths** we will continue to work on times tables rapid recall in our 2 to 12 times tables. Your child will be tested on table facts on a Monday in order for us to check their progress as we work towards the Multiplication Tables Check, a national Year 4 test taken at the beginning of June. The children will be using their knowledge of times tables to explore multiplication and division facts of bigger numbers so it is vital that they continue to work on rapid recall of 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 States of Matter. In Spring 2 we will be studying Electricity.

In **History** we study The Vikings. In Spring 2 we swap and focus on **Geography** comparing the Southwest region of the UK with a region in Europe, Campania, Italy. We will be studying aspects of both physical and human geography.

Our theme for **RE** this term looks at Pilgrimages and why they are important to worshippers across a number of religions. In Spring 2 we explore whether believers should give things up and what this means in different religions with particular reference to Lent.

Our **Art and Design** topic will involve creating light, dark and texture using different drawing materials. In Spring 2 we undertake a **Design and Technology** topic on mechanical systems by making a slingshot car.

Music will be taught through dance this term focusing on tempo, dynamics and phrasing through movement.

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

Mrs Pow will be teaching **Spanish** to Teals on a weekly basis, mainly focussing on verbal skills but with some written element built in.

The **Dance Festival** is on Thursday 13th February at Braywick Leisure Centre. We do hope you will purchase a ticket and come along to watch us perform. We are excited to show you our choreography. More information about this to follow.

Our next themed week will be Book Week in March. Please refer to our whole school newsletter for information about this over the coming weeks.

We look forward to teaching your children and having a very productive Spring Term. Once again, if there is anything you are unsure of, please contact us through the office and we will arrange to speak to you.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Weller.