



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of a new term. To ensure things run effectively in the coming term we hope the following information is useful and will give you a better picture of how you can help your child to make the most of their last few months at Holy Trinity before moving on to secondary school.

Reading

Your child should continue to fill in their Reading Diary. The children understand that they will read at school for roughly ten minutes each day and then fill in a comment. They may of course fill in extra entries at home and we do recommend that wherever possible you take a moment to hear them read. Children benefit enormously from shared reading, discussing the contents of a book, language, punctuation, characters' reactions, plot etc. Please feel free to record any comments you have about your child's reading in their reading diary. This is a book for your use too.

Homework

Homework tasks will continue to be set using Google Classroom. Your child will hopefully be very familiar with this platform by now. The work will be marked at school. Homework should not be arduous, but it is an important exercise in teaching the children skills of organisation and independence. It provides them with an opportunity to take responsibility for their own learning and prepares them for senior school. We will usually set one piece of Maths and one piece of English homework a week which should take no longer than an hour to complete. The English will often take the form of a reading comprehension, punctuation/ grammar activity, or written task and the maths homework will follow topics we cover in class. Generally, the activities will be given on a Friday and homework books containing completed homework (whether these are printed sheets or written answers) should be handed back on Wednesday. Children will also be prompted to look at a new set of spelling words, learning these in a written format or on Spelling Shed before a written test on Wednesdays.

Please feel free to assist your child with homework tasks but often they will be consolidation activities which, for the most part, they should be able to complete independently. Occasionally the homework will be a practical activity but whatever is set, instructions will be available on Google Classroom. Presentation is an important element of completing written homework successfully so this is an area you may wish to monitor. Do ensure they are following the hand writing policy, joining letters and making them of consistent size. Headings should be underlined and dates recorded. If you feel your child has worked to the best of their ability for a sufficient length of time but a homework task is not completed, please make a note and sign their homework book to indicate this.

P.E.

P.E. is timetabled for Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning so your child will need to wear their PE kit in school on these days. This term, some PE sessions will be outdoors so it is important that they have trainers and on colder days, track suit trousers and tops. Other lessons will be inside. This term they will focus on netball and gymnastics. Please refer to the school web site for uniform details. We would be most grateful if you could check regularly that all clothing is marked with your child's name so we can return any lost items quickly.

Curriculum

Standard Attainment Tests will go ahead in May 2025. The SATs tests are scheduled for the week commencing Monday 12th May. The test dates and the papers for each day are as follows:

- Monday 12th May = English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
- Tuesday 13th May = English Reading
- Wednesday 14th May = Mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
- Thursday 15th May = Mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)

You may wish to see for yourself the tests the Government have published so that you understand how best to support your child by going to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-past-test-materials>

The expectations are high and with a lot still to cover before the examinations in May the pace is fast. To prepare them appropriately, in English we will be teaching formal grammar lessons as well as exploring a range of genres in reading and writing sessions.

We have already studied 'Macbeth' and Michael Morpurgo's 'War Horse'. These were challenging texts, but have been useful to study as the SATs reading comprehension can also be particularly challenging. This term we move onto Philip Pullman's 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter'. You can help us with reading skills by exposing your child to a range of reading material at home. Along with their reading book, do they ever pick up a newspaper or could you subscribe to a child's magazine? We hope that by talking about, and giving them a variety of texts, they will become increasingly enthused and engaged with reading.

In Maths we have already covered all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), completed a long block on Fractions and have looked at ratios. We are currently in the midst of looking at a new topic for some Year 6 pupils: algebra. There are several times throughout the week where we look back on content already covered and practice key skills. However, if you feel your child needs support in certain areas, please do not hesitate to contact us and we can arrange some further support. This year there continues to be an even greater emphasis on investigative maths in order to deepen the pupils understanding of a range of topics.

In Science we are now covering Animals, Inheritance and Adaptation. In Humanities, we have completed History modules on Crime and Punishment and an examination of Early Civilizations so we are now turning our focus to geography by studying the UK focussing on how its physical and human Geography has changed over time. In Art, we are taking on the role of art critics, reviewing pieces of work from a range of artists before creating some of our own with a similar style. In Religious Education we are exploring whether clothes can express belief by studying several religions (including Christianity, Sikhism and Islam). The children will continue to learn French with Mrs Pow and play the steel pans. Steel pan lessons, delivered by CultureMix, will take place every week. The children will also be developing their Computing skills as we have now concluded our Bletchley Park topic and are moving onto complex coding using Python. As always, when using the internet, the children are reminded of the importance of keeping themselves safe. Perhaps you could help us by reinforcing the message of online safety at home. Finally, our PSHE topic for term is Health and Wellbeing with a focus on mindfulness!

With so much happening, it promises to be another busy yet exciting term.

End of day arrangements

Please note that if you would like your child to walk home independently, we require written confirmation of this. Thank you to the many of you who have already emailed or written in to confirm this. Year 6 pupils are also allowed to bring a mobile phone to school if you give permission. At the start of the day mobiles are collected and are locked away securely. As part of safeguarding procedures children are not allowed to use phones during the day. Mobiles are returned at 3:15pm as pupils leave school. The class group is officially dismissed at 3:15 pm.

If you require clarification on anything, or wish to contact me or any other member of staff, please email the school office.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas Redjeb

Useful websites:

BBC Bitesize KS2

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/>

BBC Bitesize SPAG KS2

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbh892p>

BBC Bitesize Arithmetic

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrd6mfr>

BBC Bitesize Reasoning

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7ch6v4>

Sample test material

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-past-test-materials>

Arithmetic paper generator (for practice)

<https://mathsbot.com/primary/ks2Mini>