

Willow Newsletter Autumn 2020

Dear Parents,

I would just like to start by welcoming you all back after this unprecedented break from school. Most importantly, I hope you and those around you have managed to stay safe whilst making the most of any positive situations that may have arisen.

I think we are all desperate to return to some sort of normality, built around a routine of children going to school, learning and spending time with their friends.

The timetable is certainly different with hygiene being a significant feature in the school day. Regular hand washing takes place between lessons, there is social distancing from adults and we maintain our class bubble. It is not always easy but it seems to be working pretty well so far.

The children are lovely. It is a while since I have taught such an interesting class with so many great personalities and different characters. I know we will have a fun journey together in Year 3 and hopefully, everyone will make lots of progress!

I strongly believe that good parent/ teacher relationships are a key function of providing a high quality education for your child. With that in mind, I welcome notes, phone calls and emails. Please, if something is worrying you or there is a question you wish to ask, let me know and I will try my best to sort it out.

I hope the information provided here gives you an idea of what is happening in Willow Class: the various routines and how things are set up. Again, if anything is unclear, just let me know and I will try to clarify it.

I look forward to meeting you all in person but in the meantime, take care and have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Andrew Smith

Reading

Children can change books on any day but reading records stay at home.

When books are brought back they will be quarantined for 72 hours. There will be a selection of books from each colour band to choose from in the classroom.

Reading records will be collected in at the end of the half term.

I know this system is not ideal but please don't let it put you off. Reading at home is so important and there just aren't that many opportunities to read independently in the school day.

As a rough guide try to aim to change a book at least once a week.

Guided reading will take place every week in small groups where the focus will be on understanding texts. I will also closely monitor your child's progress through the reading scheme.

Homework

MATHS

A maths work book will be sent home today. Let your child be as independent as they can whilst completing this. As a guide, don't spend more than half an hour on this and feel free to offer assistance where required.

ENGLISH/TOPIC

Choose from the options provided. If possible, try and include a little piece of writing each time- hopefully, (If I am doing my job right) you will start to see some progression. Books will be sent on Monday and stay at home until half term

SPELLINGS

Spellings will be sent home by text each week. Please try to practise them ready for a test each Wednesday. The first set will be sent today.

PE

At the moment, children are not getting changed for PE or games. This will vary depending on the weather conditions so please keep some suitable clothes in school. Sessions are outdoors on a Monday afternoon and a Wednesday morning.

LIBRARY

Sadly, at the moment, the library is closed. I will update you when this situation changes

PRESENTATION OF WORK

I am a big fan of well-presented work and neat handwriting. It will take a short period of time for the children to 'reacclimatise' after having had such a long time off. If anyone happens to feel unduly hassled during these first few weeks, please bear with me- it is worth it in the end! I like to set high standards. As always, any problems just get in touch!

TOPIC

This half term, we are studying the Stone Age leading to the Iron Age.

Science

WE will be looking at the properties of different rocks, how soil is made and fossils.



A Smith
September 2020