

Miss Watson's Class Newsletter

Monday 5th September 2016

Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed the Summer holiday.

Our learning

Please see the attached sheet for what and how we will be learning in the different subject areas.

Homework

Homework will continue to be sent home every Monday and should be returned by Friday each week. Homework is a mixture of core Maths skills and spelling. Children who do extra (e.g. more Maths questions or writing sentences using their spellings) are rewarded with house points. A few children in Miss Watson's class go to Mrs. Loring for English. These children will receive their homework from Mrs. Loring, and will need to return it to Mrs. Loring.

Spelling

A big well done and a thank you to everyone who is looking after their Spelling Log Book. The children are getting really good at recording the spellings they need to learn (the ones they've found difficult in class each day), taking the Log Book home every day and practising these words, and then remembering to bring it back the next day. Please remember that children who bring evidence of practising at home (e.g. parent/carer signature next to the spellings in the log book each week or scrap paper with spellings written on) will be rewarded with house points. This should be in addition to the spelling based homework task.

* It is really important that children bring their Log Books back to school every day as we use them as part of our spelling lesson each day. These books cannot be replaced – aside from the cost, the books will be filled with words that *your* child has found difficult. *

Children who are not yet ready to start this programme go to spelling in Mrs. Loring's class – you will receive additional information rather than a Spelling Log Book if this is the case.

Reading

Please help your child to succeed by listening to them read as often as you can. The more often you can read with your child, the more fluent they will become and the easier they will find all aspects of their learning. Please record reading at home in your child's Reading Diary. Books in book bags are changed every Friday (unless your child hasn't finished with them – please ensure comments in Reading Diaries reflect this.)

Phonics

Some children are still working on Read, Write Inc. Phonics. If this is the case, your child will have brought home a personalised phonics mat before the holiday. Please help your child to progress by listening to them read the sounds and words on their phonics mat. 5 minutes a day could really make a difference.

PE

Please make sure your child has their PE kit every week, including suitable footwear for running our daily mile (every day!) Suitable clothing for outdoors PE, such as tracksuit bottoms and trainers, should be in your child's kit. PE will be on a Monday and a Tuesday afternoon this half-term. Depending on timing, children may be allowed to leave school wearing their PE kit after some sessions. If you would rather your child gets changed back into their uniform before leaving, please just let me know.

* Please ensure all clothing is named. *

Please remember that shorts/tracksuit bottoms should be navy blue or black and t-shirts should be white.

Water bottles

Water improves concentration, learning, health, wellbeing and happiness! Please make sure your child has a water bottle in school every day, containing only water.

Resources

Please send in newspapers for our Art projects if you have them.

Poetry Journals

Today, your child will have brought home their new Poetry Journal. Please read the letter that's stuck on its inside cover for more information. Please read and enjoy the poems and return it every Monday for a new poem. Children who bring their Poetry Journal back each Monday will receive a sticker in Monday's assembly each week. House points will be awarded to children who can memorise parts of the poem each week. There will also be a writing challenge in your Poetry Journal – can you have a go at *writing* each style of poem every half-term? Please keep your Poetry Journal safe as we will be collecting them in at the end of the half-term and giving them out again at a later date. The journal will travel with your child as they progress up through school.

Rewards

* A reminder about expectations and how to be the best we can be... *

Children can earn three green stickers every week for their behaviour, work and attendance. Children who have earned enough green stickers by the end of the half-term become an 'Always Child' and receive a certificate in assembly. * Only 'Always Children' who earn enough green stickers will be rewarded with a special Golden Time in the last afternoon of the half-term. * Children are given their green stickers on a Monday for the previous week. Please encourage your child by talking to them about their stickers.

How you can earn each of your green stickers:

Behaviour – don't move into the 'yellow zone' on our 'traffic light' system by making the wrong choices e.g. talking, shouting out, being silly – if you do, improve your behaviour quickly so that you don't end up in the 'red zone'. Children who enter the 'red zone' will not receive a green sticker for behaviour. Children who enter the 'yellow zone' more than twice in a week will not receive a green sticker for behaviour.

Work – children must complete their homework and reading at home by Friday each week, as well as doing their best with all of their class work. Children must also have their book bag, Spelling Log (if they have one) and water bottle every day, have the correct PE kit every Monday and Tuesday as well as suitable footwear for running daily, and wear the correct school uniform (please ensure clothing is named.)

Attendance – you can't help it if you're poorly, but please make sure the school office is phoned so that we know where you are as we need to know you are safe. Green stickers are only awarded to children who arrive on time when the classroom doors open at 8.50am.

Children are given three chances (e.g. three green stickers not earned) so that children aren't penalised just for being poorly for example, but three chances should be plenty. Please help and encourage your child to earn their green stickers. It is really important to help them to achieve their full potential, and will prevent there being any disappointed children during our Golden Time on the last afternoon of the half-term.

History Themed Week

On Monday 3rd October our History themed week (all about the history of Micklefield) will commence. If you or anyone you know has lived in Micklefield for a long time, witnessing the many changes over the years, and you'd like to come and talk to the children, please let a member of staff know. We would also appreciate old photographs to show the children. If you have any, please could you let the school office have them? Please ensure your name is on the back so that we can return them. We will need volunteers this week for a local walk as well as for a trip to the National Coal Mining Museum, so please keep your diary free if you'd like to help, and keep an eye out for further information.

Dates for your diary

* Please see the attached sheet for lots of important dates. *

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries. I am always happy to help.

Yours sincerely, Miss H. Watson