

Miss Watson's Class Newsletter

Monday 4th September 2017

Welcome back. I hope you had a lovely 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 a mixture of core Maths skills and spelling, and is sent home every Monday to be returned by Friday each week.

The first formal homework of the term will be sent home on Monday 11th September. This week, please concentrate on listening to your child read at home (ensuring it is recorded in your child's Reading Diary by Friday) and practising spellings from your child's new Spelling Log Book, ensuring the Log Book is returned to school each day (see below in the 'Spelling' section).

Children who do extra homework (e.g. times tables or writing sentences using their spellings) will continue to be rewarded with house points.

Times tables

Knowing times table and division facts off by heart will be a main focus of our learning in Maths this term. Year 3 children should already know their 2, 5 and 10 times table and division facts and should be learning 3, 4 and 8 times table and division facts. Year 4 children should already know their 3, 4 and 8 times table and division facts and should be learning 6, 7 and 9 times table and division facts.

Remember – if you know that 3×4 is 12, then you also know that 4×3 is 12, and that $12 \div 3$ is 4 and $12 \div 4$ is 3! As part of your child's homework each week, please do extra times table and division fact practice. This may involve counting in different multiples (e.g. multiples of 4: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44, 48) and/or testing of specific questions e.g. $3 \times 6 = ?$ $15 \div 3 = ?$ We should know our times table and division facts off by heart – as quickly as we know our own name! Practice makes perfect!

Spelling

Children received their new (blue) Spelling Log Book today. It needs to be at school every day because your child writes down the words they found difficult to spell during our daily spelling lessons. Your child should bring it home every night to practise the words that they've found difficult. These books cannot be replaced – aside from the cost, the books will be filled with words that *your* child has found difficult – so please look after it! Children who bring evidence of extra practising at home (e.g. parent/carer signature in the log book each week; spellings on scrap paper; extra spellings written in homework books) will be rewarded with house points.

Please help your child to learn the 'orange words' listed in the back of the Spelling Log Book, as well as the words your child has recorded in the book.

If your child's spelling tests from before the holiday showed that they still had many spellings to learn, please continue to help your child by practising words from last year's units – these rules with example spellings were stuck into your child's homework book, but if you need another copy please just let me know.

* Some children are not ready for spellings at the expected level yet – their Spelling Log Book is red. *

Topic Detectives

15 out of 30 pupils in Class 3 submitted Topic Detective homework before the holiday. Children are rewarded with prizes PLUS an extra play time! Please see the attached sheet for ideas about what we are learning this half-term.

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 their phonics. If this is the case, your child received a new personalised phonics mat before the holiday. Please help your child to progress by listening to them read these sounds and words.

Water bottles

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

Fruit and milk

As Class 3 children are now Year 3 and 4, fruit will not be provided. Children may bring fruit from home for break time if they wish. If you'd like to pay for milk, please ask at the School Office.

PE

Please make sure your child has their PE kit **every day**, including suitable footwear for running our daily mile.

Suitable clothing for outdoors PE, such as tracksuit bottoms and trainers, should be in your child's kit.

PE will continue to be on a **Tuesday** and **Friday** afternoon this half-term. Depending on timing, children may be allowed to leave school wearing their PE kit, but if you'd rather your child gets changed back into their uniform before leaving please just let me know.

* **Please, please, please** ensure all clothing is named! We find endless t-shirts, shorts, jumpers and even trousers, jackets and coats that none of the children claim are theirs, despite them having changed in or out of them an hour previously – it would help tremendously if all clothing was named. *

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

Nut allergies

Just a reminder that there are children in school with nut allergies. If your child has a packed lunch or brings in treats for their birthday, please keep this in mind, especially as one of these children is in Class 3.

Personal Belongings

Please can children leave their own belongings at home? Phones, toys e.g. fidget spinners, jewellery such as necklaces, and stationery items such as pens, rubbers and pencil cases have been causing a distraction, especially if the item gets lost or broken.

Please note that 'Always Children' are allowed to bring a pencil case if they wish, because they have proven that their behaviour is excellent at all times and that they won't be distracted by them. This is at their own risk, as items can still get damaged or lost.

Rewards

16 out of 30 children in Class 3 were an 'Always Child' at the end of last half-term, earning their Golden Time and a certificate. Always Children also gain certain privileges e.g. permitted to bring a pencil case; their own line at lining up times; entering the classroom first; sitting on chairs rather than on the carpet.

Here's a reminder about expectations...

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'.

* 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 behaviour chart 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 'orange zone'. Children who enter the orange or red zones 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.

There will be a weekly Golden Time to reward good behaviour for 30 minutes on a Friday afternoon this half-term.

Children who move into the yellow, orange or red zones will lose some or all of these minutes.

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 and water bottle every day, have the correct PE kit every Tuesday and Friday 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.

Dates for your diary

* **Please see the attached sheet for 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*

