

Welcome to Red Squirrel class!

September 2022

Welcome to Red Squirrel class! We strive to create an ethos where the children are proud of their learning and enjoy finding out new things. I am here to help, along with Mr Bird, Miss Brain, Mrs Ingledow and Miss Sargent who are the other adults in the class. The children have all settled in brilliantly and have really impressed me with how organised they all are already. We've had a few discussions around homework and expectations that I thought it might be useful to share those with you as parents.

Reading

All children have been given a new reading record and a reading book. Please help your child take good care of it! I do try to check their records daily to make sure regular reading is taking place. The children are encouraged to keep their reading records in good condition, therefore please discourage any colouring in or doodles in the book or on the label. I would also like to ask that they are filled in with pencil or blue or black pen if possible.

Ideally, your child should be reading to an adult several times during the week. **In Year 5/6 the expectation is that they will read to an adult at least 3 times a week, as well as reading independently to ensure that they are reading at least 5 times a week.** This can be a page, a chapter, or a whole book, whatever you feel is best. Reading a little and often is far more beneficial than reading for longer once a week. You could hear your child read whilst driving to school, whilst cooking tea or while relaxing in the bath. It does not have to be the class reading book either, I just want the children to enjoy it.

Spellings

The children have been placed into a spelling group that best supports their spelling ability. This is based on spelling age results, weekly test results from last year and writing in class. The children will be given their spellings to learn on a Monday and will need to be learning them at home please. I have put links to the spellings on our class page on the school website in case you need them. All children in Key Stage 2 will have their spellings tested on a Friday.

Maths

Your child has been given usernames and passwords to online activities called TimesTableRockstars and Mymaths. TTRockstars is a way of recalling times tables facts quickly. Both websites will be used frequently in school so the children will become more familiar with them throughout the year. I will be using mymaths to set homework activities when they link in with our classwork. These shouldn't take more than 20-30 minutes to complete. If it is taking longer or your child is struggling, then please let me know so I can offer more support in school. These homework activities will be set on a Thursday and expected to be completed by the following Thursday. There will be an opportunity to complete these in playtimes if necessary. Your child will also have a PurpleMash login, this is for use in school rather than at home.

PE

All children are expected to wear the correct PE kit please.

This consists of:-
Green T-shirt or polo shirt
Shorts
Trainers or daps.

Children may wear tracksuits/joggers/leggings for outdoor P.E. during the cold weather but these need to be plain black, navy or grey please. A school jumper or cardigan is fine to use to keep warm. We do not allow them to do P.E. in shoes so it is imperative that they do have the necessary footwear. Please also make sure that any **earrings can be removed or they are left out** on our PE days. You may want to send in medical tape to cover the earrings if you prefer. The children will be taught at

least 2 hours of PE a week. These sessions will take place on **Mondays and Wednesdays** each week. Please send your child into school in PE kit on these days.

Our main topic this term is a history based one about the Anglo-Saxons, Scots and Vikings. The termly overviews are on the school website on the Curriculum pages for you to see what we are doing in a bit more detail. You will also find copies of our knowledge organisers for Science and History/Geography. These are the main facts and vocabulary that we will be learning throughout our topics. We will be setting the children short quizzes to see how much they can recall based on the topic we are studying. It might be what the words mean, a key date, or the names of rivers. (Depending on our topic.) Please have a look at these on the website and talk to your child about their learning. See what they can remember!

If there is anything I can help you with, please do get in touch and I will try to reply as soon as I am able. I want your child to be happy in my class. You can email or phone the school office or catch me on the gate in the morning.

Kind regards,

Miss Waugh