

Welcome to Woodpecker class!

13th September 2022

Welcome to Woodpecker class! I want my class to be a happy place where the children enjoy their learning. I am here to help, along with Ms Iszatt, Mrs Wilson Mrs Bushell 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. Their manners are amazing! We've had a few discussions around homework and expectations that I thought it might be useful to share those with you as parents, especially if you are new to my class.

Our main topic this term is a history based one about the Ancient Egyptians. The termly overviews will be 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!

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 3/4 the expectation is that they will read to an adult at least 3 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 will 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. The opportunity to complete these in playtimes is available 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. This session will take place on a **Friday** each week. Please send your child into school in PE kit on these days.

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,

Mrs Cotterell