

Welcome to Woodpecker class!

January 2024

Welcome back after the Christmas break. I hope you all managed to rest and relax after a long run up to the holiday. There were some very tired children when we broke up! I'd like to say thank you too, for the cards and kind gifts myself and the Woodpecker staff team received. It was very kind of you all.

Our main topic this term is a history based one about the Ancient Mayan Civilisation, whilst our literacy text is *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. 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. The children have done brilliantly on our weekly quizzes and have really impressed me with the vocabulary they now know. Thank you for your support with this.

Homework

Looking at the expectations throughout the school, I have changed our weekly reading expectation to 4 times a week reading to an adult at home. Children in Year 1 and 2 are asked to read 3 times a week and I have adjusted ours to fit in between the expectation in Red Squirrels which is 5 times.

I know it isn't always easy to fit this in but it 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.

I will be continuing to use 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.

Spellings are all on our class webpage if you misplace the paper copy that the children have been given this week.

Finally, we are looking forward to our first class trip to SkillZone on 22nd January. All the children had a letter before Christmas explaining about it. If you need any further details please ask. Also, if there is anything else I can help you with, please do get in touch and I will try to reply as soon as I am able. You can email or phone the school office or catch me on the gate in the morning.

Wishing you all a very happy 2024,

Mrs Cotterell