

January 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful Christmas with friends and family. Before moving on to the new Spring term and all that it holds, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support last term. This was greatly appreciated and your support makes all the difference to the children's progress. As well as this, I would also like to congratulate the children on their fabulous efforts on raising money for CAFOD last term. They have certainly done us proud and acted as wonderful role models throughout the whole school and community. We received lots of positive feedback from the staff at the Vikings and Asda, thanking the children for their time and commending the children for their fabulous singing, behaviour and enthusiasm. We have even received a letter from the 'Golden Oldies' (as they like to be called) thanking the children for giving their time to entertain and sing for those present at the Vikings stadium.

Topics for the Spring Term

R.E - Come and See	Community-Local Church Relating-Eucharist Giving- Lent/Easter
Science	Danger! Low Voltage Light up your World
P.E	Gymnastics Dance
(History, Geography, Design Technology, I.C.T and Art)	Enabling Enterprise
Computing	Appy Times

Our Religious Education Programme

The children will continue to be taught Religion using the 'Come and See' religious scheme. We will be studying the three themes: Local Church, Eucharist and Lent/Easter. The children will also get the opportunity to engage in one week studying Islam.

Golden Time

Children will gain their right to participate in a Golden Time activity by demonstrating an excellent attitude to their work, peers and staff. The children who have not gained this right will stay with another member of staff and will be given time to reflect on their behaviour and the reasons why they were unable to participate in the Golden Time activity.

Praising and rewarding

As well as Golden Time, children are encouraged and praised daily for their hard work, manners and positive attitude towards all children and staff. Praising of good behaviour helps to reinforce the message to all children as well as motivate them to continue to set high expectations for themselves. As well as smelly stickers and general praise, the following reward systems are used throughout the school: certificates, Headteacher Awards and a termly achievement assembly in which, amongst other things, attendance and punctuality are also celebrated. Everyday, one child will be selected from the dinner



★ hall who has demonstrated respect to sit on the Golden Table on Friday and be treated like Kings and Queens! ☺ As well as this, one child in each class will be selected as 'Star of the Week' to attend afternoon tea with Mrs Hannah on a Friday afternoon. ☺

Red and Yellow Cards

★ Staff may issue a red or yellow card as another way of reinforcing school rules. Red and Yellow cards can be used throughout the day and at dinner time when children fail to comply with the behaviour code. Yellow cards will be issued after a verbal warning for minor incidents. Red cards will be applied for more serious incidents such as physical harm, insolence etc. A yellow card will result in a ten minute suspension from playtime, and a red card will result in the child missing the remaining playtime that day and the next. If a child is issued with a red card, a letter will be sent home on the same day informing parents. Two yellow cards in a week will result in a red card. A record of all yellow and red cards will be kept.

PE

★ The children will have 2 hours of PE every week. This amount of regular exercise is vitally important; therefore, please ensure that they have full PE kit in school at all times. If your child doesn't have a PE kit, they will be offered a school kit from a bank of spares that parents have donated. Our PE time slots are Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings.

Uniform

★ Please make sure that your child has the correct school uniform and that all items of uniform are clearly marked with your child's name to prevent items getting lost. Also, please ensure that long hair is tied back at all times.

Water Bottles and Snacks

★ Please encourage your child to bring in a water bottle. They will have opportunities throughout the day to refill their bottle if necessary. Please ensure your child brings their bottle home for washing and brings it back to school refilled in the morning. The children can also bring in a snack to be eaten during break time. Please encourage the children to bring a healthy snack. We do not allow chocolate or sweets for snack.

Art T-shirts

★ Children need to have an old t-shirt or shirt to protect their uniform during art activities. Currently we have some in class, however, if the children wish to bring their own in, they are welcome to. ☺

Children's University

★ Please encourage your child to attend the wide range of after-school clubs on offer. Every time they attend they earn credit towards Bronze, Silver or Gold Award at Children's University. Graduation Day is a very special event and attending lots of clubs keeps the children busy, active and stimulated.




**Homework**

Homework will be given out on a Monday. The children should complete their homework to the best of their ability in their homework book. Please ensure that your child takes care with the presentation and quality of their homework before they hand it into me to be marked.

**Spellings**

Spelling tests will take place every Friday morning and a new set of spellings will be given out on a Monday evening for the following Friday. Please ensure that your child is practising their spellings in their homework book. As well as these spellings, this term the children will be tested on the Year 3 and 4 Statutory spellings in class which have been sent home for the children to learn. These will then be tested again before half term so your support with this would be greatly appreciated as there is a huge emphasis on children's spellings this year in assessing writing.

**Reading Books and Diaries**

All children should try to spend about 10-15 minutes a day reading their books. Please can all parents monitor and record their child's reading in their reading diary as the children are encouraged to bring these in weekly to be checked and signed off. The children are able to change their reading book in the library; however, they can also read their own books from home if they wish to do so.

**Times Tables**

Many of the children do know their times tables, but if your child still doesn't I cannot stress enough how important it is that they learn them off by heart. Year 6 Maths gets complicated and in test situations the children need to be able to calculate quickly, especially with the mental arithmetic test. Having your times tables already in your head makes things so much easier. Obviously, we will be helping the children with this in school but please test them on the way to and from school or in any spare minutes, just to keep them on their toes.

**Corrections**

To encourage the children to review their work from the previous day, we have included time, before they start new work, to do their corrections or respond to marking such as questions to assess their understanding. The children have responded brilliantly to this and are becoming more responsible learners already.

**Class Readers**

Last term we read our class Shakespeare book 'Romeo and Juliet' which the children thoroughly enjoyed. This term the children will begin reading 'Wonder' by Raquel J. Palacio as recommended by the previous Year 6 class.

**Kingswood Residential**

As you will be aware, the children will be attending Kingswood on Wednesday 15th March to Friday 17th March. Many thanks for returning the consent forms. The medical forms have now been sent out, and we would ask if you could please return as soon as possible as this information enables us to make all the necessary arrangements with Kingswood. The cost of the trip is £110 and can be paid in full or in two instalments:



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- 1st payment due in Monday 23rd January £55
 - 2nd payment due in Monday 20th February £55
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Mobile Phones

Some children do walk to and from school and I know parents like to ensure their child has a mobile phone in school. If this is the case, then mobile phones must be switched off and sent to office each morning. The children should not be using their mobile phones on the playground before and after school on the school site.

Collecting children from School

During last term we had some issues with the children being collected from school. As a school rule, we ask that if children are being collected by someone different than the norm that a note is sent into school.

Questions and appointments

If you do have any questions about your child then please do not hesitate to contact me in school. I am generally in school for 8:00am every day until about 5:00pm so I am available to discuss any issues or problems that may arise. It is however, very hard to discuss issues at 8:55am when I am collecting the children from the playground or at 3:20pm when I am dismissing the children.

And finally.... SATs

The 2017 Key Stage 2 tests will take place from Monday 8th – Thursday 11th May. Please make sure that all children are in school during this week. The tests will include: Reading, Maths, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. A selection of schools will also be sampled for Science where they will be tested on their Physics, Biology and Chemistry. The children's writing is teacher assessed throughout the year where an overall judgement is made at the end of the year. More information will follow at a later date. ☺

Many thanks,

Mrs Guest and Mrs Wright