



11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

After such an abrupt end to the school year (for most) back in March, it is wonderful to be able to say a heartfelt 'Welcome Back!' to our existing peeps and a warm 'Hello' to our new recruits. Everybody has settled in really well – it's as if we've picked up where we left off and have never been away, and our new children already seem to be part of the furniture!

I'd like to outline the routines in Falcons Class. Due to the COVID guidance we are following there have been some adjustments. Please bear in mind that there could be further changes as we go forward - nobody really knows what's ahead and, as we are all united in our attempts to keep everyone as safe as possible, we may have to make a few tweaks here and there in order to achieve this. I must say that I have been extremely impressed with your children in this respect – they are sensible and well informed, and seem to be ever adaptable.

Keeping Safe

I am happy for the children to bring in their own hand sanitiser and tissues, and for them to wear face masks if they wish to do so. We are keeping doors and windows open as much as we can, so the classroom does get a little nippy – I won't do this in terrible/ cold weather but layering up may help as the classroom will be cooler than normal. I have asked the children to bring their fruit snacks to school in a box or a bag so that they can take the cores, peelings etc home rather than put them in the bin (our bins are open). The same with tissues ideally. Water bottles need to be taken home each day to be washed and will remain on your child's desk – I am not keeping them collectively as before.

Reading at Home

This year, the children will have two reading journals which will alternate each week. The purpose of this is to allow the books to sit before being opened, as well as giving Mrs Bostock the time to check them all properly and engage in reading conversations with each child. We ask that the children read for a minimum of 20 minutes 5 times a week, making an entry in their journal each time they do so. As before, each entry needs to include the date, number of pages and a summary of what has been read (a minimum of 4 sentences). A list of 20 tasks can be found at the front of the journal, at least one of these needs to be completed each week, each task completed will count as one entry. The tasks coincide with the National Curriculum expectations for reading - completing them will enable the children to consolidate, practice and develop the skills they learn in class.

Homework

SPELLING

The children will receive their new words on a Tuesday and will be tested on the following Tuesday. Homework tasks will also be due in on this day. This homework will be set by Mrs Fairhurst.

Each week, the children will bring home a set of words to learn and a specific activity to help them with the week's spelling rule. 10 minutes practice daily is the most effective way to ensure the words 'stick,' and that they are not just learnt for the test. 20 activities designed to help with this



practicing and learning are stuck into the homework books, these also form part of the spelling lessons in class.

MATHS

Homework will be set on a Monday and due back the following Monday. In order to allow books to sit before being checked, and for work to be looked at properly, tasks will alternate weekly between those that written in books and those that are to be completed online using Mathletics, TTRockstars and MyMaths. We will check all log-ins work in school before this begins and ask that the children do the same at home. As always, homework will serve to consolidate new skills learnt in class, or to revisit and practise existing ones.

In addition to this, children who need to learn their multiplication and division facts will have a **table allocated to them on a Tuesday, to be tested the following Tuesday.** Mrs Fairhurst will oversee this.

PE

This term, **PE will take place on a Friday** and we will be doing Hockey this term, followed by football after half term. We ask that children come to school in their kits on this day. As PE kits are often used if uniforms become wet at break times, it's a good idea for your child to have an emergency kit (consisting of a change of shoes, socks and trousers/skirt and tights) on their peg at all times.

Our Timetable

Please find a weekly timetable attached. The following serves as a simple outline for the term:

- **English:** Spelling lessons will take place once a week on a Tuesday, skills and rules will be revisited during the week in other English lessons and in handwriting/ dictation sessions. Reading skills and discrete SPAG will take place on Mondays and Tuesdays. As it's more interesting for the children, and subsequently creates work of depth and quality, I like writing to link in with other learning. This term, writing will be based around our History or Science focus, or elements of our class book (Wolf Brother – Michelle Paver). In addition to this, the children will be embarking on a Shakespeare adventure with Mrs Fairhurst and we will feature elements of this in the writing too. Once I have the outcomes of our assessments I will decide on the specific objectives for Reading, Writing and SPAG.
- **Maths:** We are about to begin our second year of Power Maths – a scheme that supports learning for mastery and as such encompasses many mathematical skills, developing greater thinking and understanding of concepts. The assessment outcomes will reveal where we need to catch up and focus but we will certainly be working on Place Value, Multiplication and Division, Addition and Subtraction in the first instance. We will also keep other basic fluency skills going with quick top up sessions each day.
- **Science:** Our topic on Light will involve as much working scientifically as possible. The children will find out for themselves that light appears to travel in straight lines, using this to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye and to understand why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them. They will learn to explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes.
Next term we will be finding out about Electricity.



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- **History:** Our History focus for this term will be 'Stone Age to Iron Age', working chronologically from one to the other to see how human inventiveness and resourcefulness were directly related to survival. We have an 'Ancient Settlement' trip to Hill End planned for October and will send out additional information separately in the next week or two.
 - **Art and DT:** In order to give the children quality time to develop skills a little more independently and become engrossed in the creative process, we will continue to block out our Art and DT projects. As such, we will be embarking on an art project at the end of this term, the focus is yet to be decided, we'll see where our interest lies within the History topic.
 - **Computing, Music and Italian**
As well as SPAG and Arithmetic, Mrs Fairhurst will also be teaching Computing and Music to your children this year. Italian will be taught by Liberata Paradiso - this will be an absolutely wonderful opportunity for the children to be taught a language by a native speaker!

So let's cross our fingers and hope we have a very happy, healthy academic year!

With warmest wishes from,
Miss Kerr, Mrs Bostock and Miss Kearvell