



Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, a huge welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing and wonderful summer holiday. It was great to see so many happy, smiley faces on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September; the children looked well rested and ready for the new academic year.

Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for working so hard with your children during lockdown. Juggling occupations, family life and home schooling must have been incredibly challenging so I really do appreciate the efforts you all went to. I can't begin to tell you how much it will help your child to build on previous knowledge and develop deeper levels of understanding. The pupils have all been very excited to share their learning with me and it has been great to hear about everything they have been working on. As their class teacher, I feel genuinely grateful to be working with such supportive parents and families; thank you.

If your child is new to Brize Norton this year, please feel free to call by for a chat on the playground before or after school. This will give me the opportunity to introduce myself properly and answer any questions you may have. If I am unavailable for any reason, please telephone the office and I can contact you directly at a time that is convenient for yourselves. I appreciate that starting a new school can be a daunting experience for children, especially during the current situation, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is something that I can clarify or assist you with.

The main purpose of this letter is to communicate a few points to help the year run as smoothly as possible. If however there is something that is still unclear, please speak to one of my wonderful teaching assistants or myself and we will do our best to help. This year, the children and I are very fortunate to have support from Mrs Williams and Mrs Edmunds.

During class assemblies we will be exploring our 'SHINE' ethos, (Strive, Help, Inspire, Nurture and Excel,) and discussing ways we can further embed these qualities into the school culture. For the first half of the term, our topic will have a history focus and the children will be exploring the Stone Age to the Iron Age. After the holidays in October, we will turn our focus to Geography and investigate settlement, land use and trade. Within the term, DT and Art will have their own designated days; this time will be spent recreating cave paintings and studying sculptures.

Science promises to be just as exciting: we will be investigating States of Matter followed by Sound after half term. If your child conducts any research or produces any work at home, please can you encourage them to bring it into school? It would be great if they could share their learning with others and display their efforts within the classroom.



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## Early Morning Activities

Our classroom door will open at 8:45am. On arrival, children are asked to put their things away (snacks, reading records, water bottles). There will be an activity on their tables that relates to the day's learning objective or they will be asked to participate in silent / paired reading. It is *really* important that your child arrives on time as I start to take the register at 8:50am.

## Snack Time

In order to promote healthy eating, we ask that parents send in fruit or vegetables *only* for morning snack. (Due to the risk of choking, please ensure that grapes or cherry tomatoes are cut in half). If you have registered your child for milk, this will be given in the morning during snack and story time. Please provide your child with a named bottle of water (not juice or squash), which they will have access to during the day; these will be sent home daily to be washed and refilled.

## PE

Our regular PE day will be Wednesday. This term the children will be visiting RAF Brize Norton and developing their swimming ability. Please make sure that your child arrives at school with their swimming kit, (costume, towel and a hat,) and that they are wearing their PE kit; this should consist of a pair of appropriate PE plimsolls, a white t-shirt and navy blue shorts or joggers.

## Reading VIP

Every Friday, a member of Voyagers will be chosen to take home the class reading 'VIP Scrapbook.' The children will have the following week to write or draw about their favourite book and encourage others to read it. Including exciting paragraphs from the text, photographs or even comic strips will capture the children's imagination and help to highlight the importance of reading within our school. Just be careful not to give too much of the plot away!

Please can you ensure that the scrapbook is brought back to school on the following Friday so that we can share it with the rest of the class and pass it onto the next child? Thank you.

## Homework and Reading

We ask that you listen to your child read every day for at least ten minutes and discuss the text with them; questioning will really help to ensure their understanding and develop their inference skills. Please actively encourage the children to use their reading record to notify us when they have read independently or with an adult. (A minimum of five entries every seven days please. Each entry should contain a summary of what has happened within the text so far. Making



predictions about what could happen next is also encouraged. If reading non-fiction books, your child can record some of the exciting facts they have discovered.)

Spelling and maths homework is given out on a Friday and needs to be completed by the following Friday. Please be aware that failure to fully complete or submit this work on time or not completing reading record entries will result in your child having to miss break time and/or lunchtime.

### Attendance

Finally, we would like to remind you of the importance of regular attendance at school unless your child has a temperature or is feeling unwell. Our target is 95% because it has been proven that children who attend less than this can suffer damage to their education. 95% attendance is still the equivalent of 2 weeks' missed learning over the year. Children who attend fewer than 90% of sessions can find this having a serious impact on their learning; this is equivalent of 4 weeks' missed learning, or 100 missed lessons over the year.

### Timetable

Here is our timetable for this term. However, please be aware that this may be subject to change if unforeseen circumstances arise.

|           | 8:45 am<br>10:30 am | 10:30 am<br>10:45 am    | 10:45 am<br>11:00am | 11:00 am<br>12:00 am | 12:00 pm<br>13:00 pm | 13:00 pm<br>13:15 pm | 13:15 pm<br>14:15 pm      | 14:15pm<br>15:15pm |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Monday    | Literacy            | Snack/Class<br>Assembly | Break               | Maths                | Lunch                | Guided<br>Reading    | Music                     | PSHE               |
| Tuesday   | Literacy            | Snack/Story             | Break               | Maths                | Lunch                | Guided<br>Reading    | Science                   |                    |
| Wednesday | Literacy            | Snack/Story             | Break               | Maths                | Lunch                | Swimming             |                           |                    |
| Thursday  | Literacy            | Snack/Story             | Break               | Maths                | Lunch                | Italian              | RE                        |                    |
| Friday    | Literacy            | Snack/Story             | Break               | Maths                | Lunch                | Computing            | History/Class<br>Assembly |                    |

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am very much looking forward to working with you and your children during the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kerry Mills