



10th September 2021

Dear Voyagers,

Welcome back! I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are returning with enthusiasm and energy!

Although I am not joining you just yet, I am looking forward to seeing you all and hearing about your holiday adventures. In the meantime, the fabulous Miss Williams will lead the Voyagers team, ably assisted by Mrs Kearvell and Mrs Mulcahy. We will be working together and communicating whenever the need arises, to ensure the smooth running of the class and to ensure the children are in a safe and enriching learning environment.

Please refer to the guidance from Mrs Fairhurst about Covid and the easing of restrictions. As we continue to emerge from this pandemic, we ask that if your child is feeling at all unwell, you are mindful of our school community. Please do not take any risks that may affect others.

What are we learning about this term?

An exciting term ahead! Our Humanities focus is History, investigating the changing role of the monarchy over time. Our Science topic will involve discovering the properties of materials and changes in state. In PE we will be developing our hockey skills and our swimming lessons are finally resuming – hurray! The focus of RE will be Creation in different faiths, Harvest and Remembrance. We will be developing our word processing skills and exploring rhythm and sequencing with the GarageBand program. Importantly, we will be reminding ourselves of the pitfalls of working online and how to remain safe. We will be exploring how to build relationships and how to access/provide support in PSHCE. Quite a lot to fit in!

Early Mornings and Timings

Our class opens at 8.40 and the day finishes at 3.15. Can we please ask you to be prompt every day to avoid missing any learning. Activities will start at 8:45 and it is vital that your child is ready to start on time. Every morning, the children will need to put all their belongings away and ensure that they are ready for the day ahead, avoiding unnecessary return trips to collect forgotten items from their pegs.

Some children will be part of early morning interventions to assist with their learning. If your child is highlighted to benefit from this work, you will be notified and your child will be invited in.

Snack Time

Every morning during break time, the children can have a snack. To help promote our school's healthy eating policy, we ask that they bring fruit or vegetables only. Also, a gentle reminder of the 'No Nuts' policy. Please provide your child with a named water bottle that is brought in daily with fresh water. Please make sure that it is filled with water only.

PE

This term, our weekly PE sessions will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. The children should come to school on Tuesdays in full PE kit (with school sweatshirt for the morning) and ensure that they have their swimming things in school on Wednesdays.



Homework and Reading

We will be working as hard as we can to ensure that any gaps left by lockdown are addressed and plugged. You can do your bit by ensuring that your child practises their tables daily and is able to verbalise the strategies they use to solve a mathematical problem.

We ask that the children read at least 5 times a week for 20 – 30 minutes. Every child has a reading diary to record their own reading achievements. Please encourage your child daily to write a 3-4 sentences about what they have read in these books. It is important that these entries are in their own words and not lifted from the texts! This term, we would like to encourage the children to experiment with different authors and genres to broaden their range and increase vocabulary. Who knows who will become their next favourite author!

Reading diaries need to come into school every Friday to be checked and monitored. The children have a designated reading slot first thing in the afternoon to encourage the joy of reading. Reading books can be borrowed from the class library. Don't forget about the free online resource of Oxford Owl. Books can also be enjoyed as Audio Books. And please don't underestimate the value of reading to your child and sharing a story together!

Every Monday, the Year 4 children will receive 10 spellings. The Year Five children will revise these spelling patterns and will also be given an additional five from their core list. These will be tested every Friday, so please encourage your child to practise them daily.

As well as spelling homework, all children will have additional maths and English homework to reinforce work tackled that week. All homework will be handed out on a Monday and needs to be completed by Friday. We believe that building on work in the classroom is invaluable but it is also important to reserve time at the weekend to spend with the family and to relax! Please assist and encourage your child to complete all the work given. Work should be set out neatly and completed with the same attention to detail that they would use in class. Twenty minutes should be more than adequate to complete the work set – set a timer if necessary!

Attendance

We would like to remind you of the importance of your child's regular attendance. 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! Scary statistics! It is also important for your child to greet their peers and catch up on news before the day starts and to have time to prepare for the day ahead. For many, coming in late results in your child feeling flustered and ill-prepared to learn.

Timetable

Monday	English	B	Maths	L	Music	RE
Tuesday	English	R	Maths	U	P.E	Computing
Wednesday	English	E	Maths / Italian	N	Swimming	
Thursday	English	A	Maths	C	PSHE	Science
Friday	English	K	Maths	H	History	Assembly



NB Art and DT are given extended slots towards the end of term to allow suitable time for a project to be completed – creativity is not undervalued!

The first half hour of each day will be dedicated to spelling, handwriting, dictation and times tables and maths fluency.

School – Family Partnership

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. We strongly believe in the partnership between school and carers to promote your child's happiness and to support their education and learning. We look forward to working with you and your child during the term ahead.

May we just reiterate that young or old(er), our door is always open. If you have a concern, query or something to share, we are keen to listen! Select the adult that you are most comfortable talking to – we won't take offense! In particular, Miss Reynolds is looking forward to getting to know the Voyagers community better so come and have a chat!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Reynolds, Mrs Kearvell and Mrs Mulcahy