



Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Voyagers,

Welcome back! It has been wonderful to see everyone back after the Christmas holiday.

Please refer to the guidance from Mrs. Fairhurst about Covid and 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 Geography, and we will be learning about another European country - namely Italy. This fits in nicely with our Italian lessons which will support the learning in both lessons.
- Our Science topic is all about Forces and how they impact us and our world.
- In PE we will be developing our netball skills and we continue to have Forest School on a Monday
- The focus of RE will be about Mosques and we will learn about their main features and look at different examples around the world.
- In Computing we will be developing our coding skills on Scratch as well as 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.

So, a rich and exciting term lies ahead of us.

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. The children should come to school on Tuesdays in full PE kit (with school sweatshirt for the morning) and ensure that they have outdoor wear for Forest School on Mondays. There are still several pairs of wellington boots that were not collected at the end of last term. Please check if they belong to you.



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 multiplication tables daily and is able to verbalise the strategies they use to solve a mathematical problem. Log on details for Rockstar XXX have been sent home with each child already.

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 3-4 sentences about what they have read in these books. It is important that these entries are in their own words. 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. 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 children will receive 10 spellings, so please encourage your child to practise them daily. To start the term our class book will be 'There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom' by Louis Sachar. This book will be the starting point for most of our English learning for the first part of the term as we look at how characters are built up in a book.

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	Forest School
Tuesday	English	R	Maths	U	R.E	P.E
Wednesday	English	E	Maths / Italian	N	Computing	PSHE
Thursday	English	A	Maths	C	Science	
Friday	English	K	Maths	H	Geography	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, and a handwriting lesson will be timetabled straight after lunch each day.

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!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs El-Masri, Mrs Kearvell and Mrs Sutherland.