



Autumn Term 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break and have returned ready and refreshed for a new school year.

Mrs Gardner and Mrs Stanley will work with the year 5 children on a Wednesday afternoon and Mrs Howarth will be teaching the children on a Wednesday morning on a fortnightly basis.

This term's work in literacy includes reading and writing by significant authors-Michael Morpurgo, Nina Baldwin-and a second unit based on film narrative. We will revisit instructional writing whilst in poetry we will look at poetic style. Much of the literacy learning will follow the theme of WW2-our history unit for the term. Thus we will find out through stories and film about life for children in WW2. This will help develop the children's understanding of the effect of WW2 locally, nationally and internationally. Using ICT they will use a range of sources of information to make simple observations, inferences and deductions and present material across all aspects of the curriculum. In Design and Technology we will look at different shelters used in WW2 and use art skills for drawing people in action.

In Numeracy work we shall be following the strategy guidelines of: a mental/oral starter, the main teaching lesson, independent or group work and, finally, a plenary to finish the lesson. The plenary is a time for sharing what has been learnt and clarifying misunderstandings. We will be further developing skills in counting, partitioning numbers, calculation, shape, handling data and measuring.

Another focus of this term's work will be Science. This includes the children learning about plant and animal life cycles. In this unit the children learn that plants and animals reproduce as part of their life cycle and that in every life cycle there are distinct processes and stages. They should also begin to understand how reproduction is important to the survival of the species. Later in the term we will study gases around us. This focuses on gases and how they can be distinguished from solids and liquids by their properties. They also learn about the uses of some important gases and where gases are found. Both units involve experimental and investigative work and making observations and comparisons.

P.E will be on a Thursday requiring shorts and T-shirts to be worn. Games will be on a Monday afternoon and the children will require suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. As much as possible we will go outside – but children should be equipped for indoor work as well in case of bad weather. Remember sportswear not fashionwear! As per the regulations stated in Cambridge County Council's Health and Safety Guidelines for Physical Education all children with hair longer than shoulder length must have it tied back and all jewellery must be removed. In the event of children have a new ear piercing they should have tape with them to cover the studs. The children must be able to do this for themselves.

Homework

At year 5 the children are expected to study for around 2.5 hours per week at home. The break down of home study will be as follows:

*Spellings will be given on a Tuesday for a 'check up' on the following Monday. This includes writing 5 interesting sentences using the given vocabulary.

*A weekly homework will be set. This may be art work, science, numeracy and will be given on a Friday for the following Thursday. Sometimes a mini project of 2-3 week duration may be given instead.

*A weekly Reading homework will be given depending on the day your child's reading takes place in class. It is very important that children complete the reading and task as the reading session the following week builds on this homework task.

Each child will be given separate homework books/folders in which to complete the above work.

We do appreciate that some children find it difficult to complete tasks at home, so there will be the opportunity for children to complete tasks at a lunchtime homework club. In addition DX club will provide a quiet area for those children who use this facility.

Please encourage your child to read frequently in addition to the set guided reading. The children have the opportunity to read books from the school libraries. Audio books are available from public libraries and are a great resource too.

I look forward to having your continued support with all aspects of your child's education. Should you wish to discuss anything regarding your child please try to make this after school though I do appreciate that sometimes urgent information requires passed to me in the morning.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs H Paterson