

8th September 2017

**Welcome to Dragonfly Class (Year 5 and 6)**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday.

**Teaching and Classroom Arrangements**

The children have all made a good start to their new year group and to carrying out the responsibilities that come with being in the top class. There are lots of exciting things to learn about this term including:

Classification of Plants and Animals (Science)

Forces (Science)

Changes in Britain from Stone Age to Iron Age (History)

Maps (Geography)

Creation and science: conflicting or complementary (RE)

Was Jesus the Messiah? (RE)

Maths and Literacy skills, along with Art, DT, Music, PSHE, PE and Computing, will be taught through these topics if appropriate as well as in separate lessons. On Thursday afternoons the children will have French with Mrs Parkes and PE (football) with Lee Cuff.

The children can bring in a pencil case with their own pens / pencils if they wish. It is better not to bring anything of great personal value as sometimes things get lost. The pencil case needs to fit in your child's tray.

**PE Kits**

Please make sure your child's PE kit is in school every day. Each child needs their Salway Ash PE t-shirt, shorts, plimsoles (or clean indoor trainers) and trainers for outdoor use that can get muddy. In addition, a tracksuit that can be worn over the

shorts and t-shirt is very useful for colder days. Football boots or similar trainers are useful when the field is wet and slippery. The children may also bring a football kit to wear at a football club (lunchtime or after school) or for lunchtime football when the weather allows. If your child wears their PE kit home after a club, please ensure they bring it back the next day. It is best for PE / Sports kits to be in drawstring bags that will not encroach onto another child's peg space in the cloakroom. Long hair should always be tied back for PE lessons.

**Please make sure all items of uniform have your child's name in.**

### **Homework**

The children all have a reading book that they need to bring home each day. Regular reading at home (15-20 minutes a day) will really develop literacy skills. The children can do Accelerated Reader quizzes on any books they have read during the holidays. Their word count on the Accelerated Reader software resets to zero at the start of a new school year. I'm sure the children will enjoy watching their word count rise and the movement of their car on the racetrack outside the hall.

Maths and Spelling homework is set on a Wednesday (green book). This work needs to be handed in on the following Tuesday. Spelling tests will be on a Tuesday. I will put a copy of the spellings on our class eSchools page so that your child can continue to practice their spellings if they choose to hand their book in early. Science / topic homework is set on a Friday (purple book). This needs to be handed in on the following Thursday. Both books contain a copy of Year 5 and 6 homework rules. Access to a good dictionary at home is very useful so that the children can check they understand the meaning of words where necessary and can ensure their spelling is accurate

Please support your child with their homework and remind them to join their handwriting and hand the book in on time. It will really help them to get into a good routine with their homework now before they go to secondary school.

Homework is set every week. I don't usually set any over holidays.

### **Helping Your Child At Home**

There are many ways you can help your child at home:

- Read with them regularly. When reading with your child, please discuss aspects of the book such as: the characters; the plot; the language the author has used and the effect all these things have on the reader.
- Practise times tables and other number facts (e.g. pairs of numbers that total 100) Regular learning and practice of times tables facts up to 12 x 12 will really

help develop your child's mathematical skills. Your child needs to be able to recall facts quickly and accurately. There are lots of online games to help with this. Please encourage your child to learn the related facts too (e.g. knowing  $3 \times 7 = 21$  helps them with  $21 \div 7$ ,  $30 \times 70$ ,  $3 \times 0.7$  etc).

- Involve them in everyday activities that involve maths, e.g. shopping, cooking etc.
- Practise reading and writing large numbers (7 digits for Year 5 children and 8 digits for Year 6s). Looking at house prices in the estate agents window / newspaper is a good way of doing this.
- Talk about fractions, decimals and percentages in everyday life (sharing food items amongst the family, money, sale shopping etc.).
- Encourage your child to read through all their homework carefully to check accuracy, punctuation and spelling.

Finally, please do come and see me if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Smith

Dragonfly Class Teacher