

8th September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely summer and were able to enjoy at least some warm and sunny outdoor days in between the rain!

A huge thank you for all the wonderful dinosaur paraphernalia that appeared in the classroom today! I think this is probably the best resourced project I’ve ever taught! Our key question is:

**Jurassic Earth: Dinosaur’s playground or deadly construction site?**

and I have attached the outline plan for you to look at.

**PE**

This term PE will be on Friday and Wednesday/Thursday (depending on whether it is a swimming week). Please ensure your child has a full PE kit of T shirt, shorts and trainers or plimsolls, and that this is in school from Monday to Friday in case there are any changes to the timetable. Children who can swim at least 25m in years 5 and 6 will not be swimming but those who still need to achieve this distance will be attending swimming lessons on Wednesday mornings later in the term – more information to follow.

**Weekly spellings, tables and reading**

Five-minutes-a-day Tables – each week the children will be given a times table to focus on and ensure fluency. By year 5, all children should be able to quickly and accurately recall all tables to 12 x 12, but they do need to keep revisiting in order to retain fluency. Every Friday there will be a test on the times table given as homework on the Monday, and questions will include deriving answers eg .7 x 8 or 80 x 70 as well as division questions. Times table cards are available on Blaise Class page of the website or from the classroom.

Five-minutes-a-day Spellings – a set of 10 spellings will be given every week based on class work in Read, Write Inc. The children need to practise these at home and they will be tested every Friday. Your help with supporting your child to learn these is crucial. Sometimes the list will include spellings chosen specifically for your child which they find tricky. Lists of spellings and tables for the term can be found on the website on Blaise Class page.

Ten minutes-a-day Reading – please ensure that your child is reading at least 5 times a week. If they are fluent, this does not need to be aloud but reading together can be a really happy, shared time. Please take time to discuss the book your child is reading with them – find out about characters and plot and talk about what might happen next. If you are able to read the book after they’ve gone to bed, really meaningful discussions can ensue! If your child is on ‘free-readers’, they can have books from home as their reader as long as they bring it in with them each day. Please remind your child to choose a new reading book once they have completed their current one.

**Homework**

English and Maths – application, revision or extension – a short piece of English and Maths will be given each week in which the children will be expected to apply recent learning to a new situation. This should take no longer than 20 minutes per subject. If the work is not completed after that time, please sign the sheet to say that 20 minutes work was undertaken. This will be given on a Friday and the children will have a week to complete it. **There are opportunities every week for children to do this homework during their lunch time after they have eaten but they will need to ask permission from me or Mrs Gilbert.**

Half term Challenge – a challenge will be set before half term based on our immersive curriculum theme. This will be a creative challenge and the children will be given an extended period of time in which to complete it.

School day

Registration begins at 8.55 but the children should be in class from 8.45am to work on their early morning maths activities. The school day ends at 3.15pm and the children will be brought out onto the playground for collection. If you would like your child to walk home on their own, please send in a note giving your permission. Similarly, if your child is being collected by someone other than you, please let us know so that we can ensure they are safe.

I do hope this year will be a happy and fulfilling time for your child. Their happiness and well-being is so important to us here at Ladock, so please do come and speak to us about any concerns or worries you or they may have. We are available from 8.30 most mornings before teaching begins at 8.45, or after school. Messages can also be left with Jane Batchelor in the office.

Very best wishes,

Mary Stevenson