

8th September 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a fantastic summer and have managed to enjoy at least a little bit of sunshine! Being a new teacher, I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Miss Beth Harris and I am a Newly Qualified Teacher. I was born and raised in Truro and have always lived there apart from the three years I spent at the University of Exeter undertaking a degree in Psychology and German. Last year, I completed my teacher training through Cornwall SCITT and was lucky enough to have a placement at Ladock School with Mrs Stevenson in Blaise class. I absolutely loved it and was so fortunate to be offered a job. Hopefully, this means I am not a completely unfamiliar face but I am so excited to get to know all your children even better throughout the course of the year.

At our move-up day in June, the children chose the topic of oceans to focus on this term. Attached you will find an overview of what we will be exploring under the heading of

 **Oceans: What is life like at sea?**

If you have any books or resources that link in with this theme, please do send them in.

**PE**

This term PE will be on Friday and Wednesday. 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. Swimming will take place every Wednesday morning from the 19th September.

**Weekly spellings, tables and reading**

By the end of year 2, all children should be able to quickly and accurately recall the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and be secure in their number bonds to 10 and 20. Each week the children will be given some of these number facts to practise recalling. Every Friday there will be an opportunity for the children to ‘show what they know’ of the number work given as the week’s focus on the Monday.

Similarly, a set of 5 spellings will be given every week based on key words the children need to be able to spell by the end of the academic year and which we have been learning in class. They need to practise these at home and, again, they will be given the opportunity to ‘show what they know’ on the Friday. Your help with supporting your child to learn these is crucial. Ideas on how to help your child with these learning activities will be sent home shortly.

**Reading**

Reading is a really crucial skill and here at Ladock we want children not only to read fluently and with comprehension, but to develop a life-long love of reading. Your help with this is crucial. Please spend time – around 15 minutes is a good period - each evening listening to your child read and discussing the story with them. Please fill in their reading records each time you listen to them read. We will look at this every time the children change their reading books, so it can be used as a means of communication between class and home too. We also have plenty of books about ocean and sea life which the children are welcome to borrow; some may be too complex for them to read independently but they might make good bedtime stories. Making story time a really cherished time of day helps foster a love of reading and build a special bond with your child.

**Homework**

A short piece of Maths or Literacy will be given each week to children in year 2 in which the children will be expected to apply recent learning to a new situation. This should take no longer than 10 minutes. If the work is not completed after that time, please sign the sheet to say that 10 minutes work was undertaken. This will be given on a Friday and the children will have a week to complete it. If your child is really struggling with their homework, Mrs Townsend and I are happy to offer support. Children in year 1 will start by having a 5-minute piece of Maths or Literacy once a fortnight, because the real focus is on their reading.

Other homework – occasionally another piece of homework may be given relating to our class topic. This will be more creative and the children will have an extended period of time in which to complete it with parental support.

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 your child is being collected by someone other than you, please let us know so that we can ensure they are safe.

I am really looking forward to encouraging and supporting your child as we start a new school year. I strive for my classroom to be a place where everyone feels safe, happy, inspired, and valued, so please do come and speak to us about any concerns or worries. We are available from 8.30 most mornings until morning maths begins, or after school. Messages can also be left with Jane Batchelor in the office.

Best wishes,

Beth Harris