

September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We hope you had a refreshing and relaxing summer.

Our Curriculum

Attached to this letter is the outline planning for Ladoca Class this term. As we are learning in a Victorian Classroom, we have decided to explore what it would be like to live in Victorian times. If you have any Victorian photos, artefacts or books that you would be happy to share in the classroom, please do bring them in. Later in the term, we will be having some educational visits to develop our skills and understanding and we will also be having some special Victorian days here in school – details and dates to follow shortly. Advanced warning: we will have at least one day of ‘come in Victorian costume’ so please start thinking about possible outfits!

PE

This term the children will be having PE lessons on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is crucially important that all the children have their PE kit - shorts, T shirt and trainers/plimsolls - in school every week. Please support them by ensuring they have the correct kit. Our swimming sessions are planned for the second half of term and we will be writing to you shortly with details.

Homework

Your support with homework is crucial. With the much higher level of expectation placed upon us by the 2014 primary curriculum and assessment procedures, the children need to be fluent readers, spellers, writers and mathematicians. As with learning any skill, this requires practise and dedication and your encouragement and guidance is essential. Every Monday the children will be given a set of up to 10 spellings to work on at home. We will be working on word groups following similar rules in class during our daily Read, Write Inc sessions so the children should all be able to cope with the spellings sent home. They will be tested on these on Friday.

Please hear your child read from their accelerated reader at least 5 times a week and spend time discussing the story with them eg why did a character behave in a certain way; what might happen next and why; favourite character and why etc. When your child finishes their A.R. book, they can access the on-line quiz at home or take it in class the next day. There will be an opportunity for the children to change their reading book just before playtime each morning.

Every week the children undertake a maths activity based on number bonds and times table knowledge called 99 Club. From this, they have a times table that they need to be working on at home to improve their score. Please support them in learning this. There are lots of on-line times tables games and apps available or good old-fashioned tables’ cards are available from school if you would like some.

Finally, each half term, the children will be given a ‘Pick and Mix’ homework sheet. This features the reading and spelling activities mentioned above and also gives them a range of other activities to choose from – one per week - which should take 20-30 minutes and should be brought in by Friday each week (homework books will be returned on Monday). For these activities, the children can earn stars which could lead to prizes! This half term the focus is on writing; next half term the focus will be on mathematics. The aim here is for the children to apply their learning to new situations to develop fluency and, again, your support and encouragement is essential.

Availability

Please do not hesitate to come and speak to either of us if you have any concerns or need clarification on anything. Mrs Stevenson works Monday – Wednesday and Mr Stoyles is teaching the class on Thursday and Friday. We are available each morning before school begins – although we do need to be with the children from 8.45am – and after school Monday-Thursday (unless there are meetings).

It is so important to us that your child feels happy, valued and supported at school, so please do let us know if there are any issues that we need to address or any information that we should be aware of.

With very best wishes and many thanks for your continued support,

Chris Stoyles and Mary Stevenson