

5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to another exciting year ahead of us. Alongside and through Numeracy and Literacy this term, we shall be enjoying a variety of topics this term. These include a geographical study of Brazil and India, an insight into Hindu worship and festivals, an exploration of rainforests and jungles, an investigation of forces and magnetism in Science, and a journey through the Christmas Story. The overviews for these topics can be found on our class page on the school website.

### **Learning Logs**

Each week your child will get 'Learning Log' homework to support the work that they are doing in class. They will bring their homework home on Tuesday and hand it on the following Monday. In their Learning Log, there will be an outline of what your child needs to do and any necessary sheets which they may use. Their homework will consist of:

**Reading** - Your child has been given a reading scheme or free choice reading book. Please can your child read to you daily or at least 4-5 times a week and record it in their yellow record book. However, if they are a confident reader this can be a mixture of reading to themselves and reading to someone else. It is important at this stage that you ask questions about the story (e.g. can they find evidence in the text to show what a character is like) and the vocabulary used to develop your child's reading comprehension. Each day they should bring their reading book and reading record book in and out of school. As an extra, the child can take part in a book bingo for the term, which in previous years they have enjoyed. There will be rewards for how many they complete.

**Spelling** - Each week they will have a spelling objective that follows the Read Write Inc Spelling program we are using in school. In class we carry out various daily activities linked to these spellings. At home they can use their Learning Log to learn their spellings in their own way e.g. as a list, devising a word search/crossword/game, writing a spelling story etc....They do not need to use the spelling sheets provided if they wish to learn them in a different way. There are many tablet apps out there to help with spelling - Nessy Hairy phonics and Squeebles (links to curriculum or you can input your own spelling lists) are just a couple that are fun to use. It has been shown that it is essential that spellings are learnt regularly (at least four times a week) to help your child retain the spelling patterns and apply them to their written work. Learning them just once will not help them retain the spelling.

**Launchpad** - We have a whole school Numeracy scheme called 'Launchpad' to help the children learn their key facts in Numeracy. The children are placed on a planet and have a Launchpad sheet. This needs to come in and out of school each day (I recommend it lives inside their reading record so it comes into school each day). They choose an objective to focus on and practise it both at home and at school. When they feel they can recall the facts with speed, you can test them and if you feel they have achieved the objective, you can sign and date it. Then a peer will test them in school and then finally a teacher will test them. If the teacher feels the

child has achieved it, s/he will then move on to a new objective. The teacher will star it, if they have tested it but feel the child still needs to practise it. Please can your child complete their homework or record what they did to practise their Launchpad in their Learning log each week e.g. my mum fired 3 x table table questions at me in the car each day.

**Optional homework** - Occasionally, they may be given an optional task as an extra piece of homework linked to what they are learning in class or to prepare work to be used in a lesson the following week.

If there are any problems with the homework set or they can't do it one week due to other commitments, please jot a note in the learning log or come and have a chat with me about it so I am aware when I am marking it. Remember there is also a Homework club (Tuesday lunchtime) which your child may attend if they find it hard to complete the work at home and wish to do part of it at school.

### **Things to remember**

- Please can you help your child to remember to bring in their **PE kit** and **water bottle** in each week on a Monday and then take home on a Friday (if it needs washing). This term P.E. is on Monday and Thursday.
- It would also be helpful if they keep a **painting apron/old shirt** in school for Art lessons.
- There are also many exciting clubs this term at lunch or after school for your child to take part in. Please see the website for more information. Some are limited in places, so please sign up quickly for those.
- I have attached a chart to help your child remember what to bring to school each day. Please feel free to use this and add to it if you feel this will be useful.

Finally, if you would like to help on trips, at clubs or at school in any way, please pop in or give me a ring to organise. I particularly need help from parents who are willing to listen to readers if you enjoy a good story!

Thanks for all your support at home,

Miss Ellis

'Busy Bees' class teacher