

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to another exciting year ahead of us. The class have settled in quickly and we are already working hard together producing some excellent work. Alongside and through Numeracy and Literacy this term, we shall be enjoying a variety of topics. These include a historical (Victorian) and geographical study of our local area (with a magical fantasy element to it!!!), an investigation into light in Science, an exploration of special and sacred places in our locality 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.

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.... 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 will either be put on: Venus and Mercury (Year 2 objectives), Earth and Mars (Year 3 objectives) or Jupiter and Saturn (Year 4 objectives). I will be putting the children on their new year group objectives or back to the beginning of the launchpad they were on last year if I feel that they should recap these objectives and make sure they have remembered them. 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 an adult will test them in school. If the adult feels the child has achieved it, s/he will then move on to a new objective. The adult will star it, if they have tested it but feel the child still needs to practise it. There will be an extra box this year, where I will retest your child on objectives later in the year to check they have retained the objective. It is the overlearning of these key facts that is key to their success in Maths. 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 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.

Active Learn website- At school we subscribe to Active Learn (www.activelearnprimary.co.uk) which can be used both in the classroom and at home to support learning in Maths. Last year the children really enjoyed using this website at home as they were revisiting their maths learning from class through playing games at home. For those that used it, it had a significant effect on their learning and confidence in Maths. Each child has their own username (e.g. bob or bobp) and password (bee). The school code is 'skrt'. I will introduce it in class in the first few weeks and then assign games weekly or fortnightly. If there are any problems, please let me know.

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 once a week on a lunchtime (see website for day) 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** in each week on a Monday and then take home on a Friday (if it needs washing).
- Please make sure your child has a **water bottle** in school every day. It is vital that the children stay hydrated throughout the day. The bottle lives in their packs on the back of their chair to make them accessible during the day. I advise that the water bottle goes home each night to keep it hygienic.
- 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 uploaded a chart on the class page 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 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 or test launchpad. Also, during the morning of Tuesday 18th September we shall be going on a walk around the village linked to our Geography topic - if you are free to help please can you let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you for all your support at home,

Miss Ellis

'Busy Bees' class teacher