

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new school year, it is lovely to see everyone again. For any new parents, please do come and say hello at the gate. I am looking forward to getting to know the new faces better and working with them.

### **Homework/Diaries**

Please do read the new homework policy available on the school website, it sets out our thoughts and ideas behind what we expect. In Porpoises it is expected that all children read daily and record it in their green diary. Once a week they should record a thoughtful comment about what they are reading at home using one of the sentence starters provided. This will be checked on a Friday each week. We encourage children to read a wide variety of texts: fiction, non-fiction, magazines, newspapers are all great sources of reading material. We have a fantastic modern selection of books in our classroom that children can browse and borrow from whenever they wish. In addition to this, children will have spelling words to practice each week. There are lots of activities that children can use to do this listed at the back of their diary. Each week I will identify one particular task that should be recorded in the diary next to the word list. This will also be checked on a Friday. We also have paid to use the website Spelling Shed. If you have given us permission to register your child then this is a great way to practice spellings. I will be adding the weekly word lists to their accounts. During maths lessons, children will identify particular arithmetic skills they need to practise, including times tables. We will continue to use Sumdog and children can access this at home with their passwords. For children who would like to, they can complete some or all homework tasks in school on a Monday at lunchtime. During this term there will also be a Topic homework grid where children can choose an activity and complete it to share at our open morning (see newsletters for details)

### **PE**

Sam, our wonderful coach will be back on Wednesday afternoons to teach PE skills. This term we will be doing Tag Rugby. Please could you ensure that all children have full PE kit on a Wednesday (we do prefer that children have PE kits in school every day as we sometimes have extra lessons or special coaches coming in) We do ask that children wear plain black leggings or tracksuit bottoms and plain blue or black fleeces. There are some lovely Durweston hoodies for sale from Ragtags. We will also be completing the daily mile (every day!) and this includes throughout the winter. Please could children have a waterproof coat in school in case of drizzle.

### **Communication**

If you need to speak to me, please do make an appointment through the office. If you can't come in in person, an email or phone call is great - or a note via your child. The children's diaries have a space to write comments in, just make sure that your child draws my attention to it. Apart from a Tuesday afternoon, I am available every day. Please also check the weekly newsletters for what is happening.

### **Mrs Brooke**

Mrs Brooke will be teaching Porpoises on a Tuesday afternoon while I have my planning, preparation and assessment time.

Autumn term is always a busy one (I think we say that every term!) and it will be the KS2 Christmas Carol Concert before we know it. Already, we are working hard and have made a fantastic start to our learning. We have a lot of exciting things planned before then and I would like to thank you for your support in advance.

Catriona Johnstone and the Porpoise class team.