

Dear Parents

I would like to start by saying thank you for all of the lovely cards and gifts that we received at Christmas time, we are truly humbled by your generosity. All of the children have made a wonderful start to the year and we are ready to work even harder in this Spring term. For our Year 6s it is full steam ahead as we prepare for the SATs in May. Look out for further information throughout this term, starting with a letter regarding revision books by the end of January. I will also be holding an information session before February half term regarding SATs and PGL. For our year 5s, we will also be working hard learning more of the Year 5 curriculum and applying our skills in different ways and within different areas of the curriculum. I have attached this term's learning to this letter. If anyone spots any area of interest and would like to come in and help or know of anyone who could talk to the children then please let me know.

Homework

Homework will continue as it did in Autumn term. In Porpoises it is expected that all children read at least five times per week and record it in their yellow books. Once a week they should record a thoughtful comment about what they are reading at home using one of the VIPERS ideas provided. This should be much more than one sentence long and can include more than one question type. We encourage children to provide examples from their texts to justify their opinions and thoughts. This will be checked on a Friday each week. We have a fantastic modern selection of fiction books in our classroom as well as non-fiction and poetry that children can browse and borrow from whenever they wish. In addition to this, children have spelling words to practice each week. There are lots of activities that children can use to do this in their books. Each week I will identify one particular task that should be recorded in their book next to the word list. This will also be checked on a Friday. We continue to provide Spelling Shed, Read Theory, Maths Shed and Times Table Rockstars (which specifically helps to reinforce the multiplying and division facts needed for so many maths concepts in years 5 and 6) for children to access at home to consolidate and practice skills. 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 issued before half term (and posted on the class page on the school website) where children can choose an activity and complete it to share at our open morning on 2nd April.

PE

BRS will continue to work with us on Wednesday afternoons to teach PE skills. This term we will be doing Netball and Athletics. 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 continue to complete the daily mile (every day!) unless the weather is too bad to be on the field. Please could children have a waterproof coat in school in case of drizzle. On those few occasions of very bad weather we do some class based movements using Go Noodle.

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. Apart from a Thursday afternoon, I am available every day. Please also check the weekly newsletters for what is happening and when.

Mrs Brooke

Mrs Brooke will continue to teach Porpoises on a Thursday afternoon while I have my planning, preparation and assessment time.

Leo and Cocoa

Leo and Cocoa are our class mascots. They love to go home with different people and have adventures which are written in their special book for us all to enjoy. If you are happy for your child to bring them home, please let me know.

Thank you, as always, for your support,

Catriona Johnstone (Teacher) and the Porpoise Class Team.