

# Seahorses Newsletter

Autumn 2020

Dear Parents,  
Welcome back to school! We hope you have all had a great summer. It's so lovely to welcome our new Seahorses and those who we are lucky enough to be keeping for another year.

**Miss Stirk** will be teaching **Monday to Friday**. **Mrs Kirwin** continues to cover PPA on **Tuesday afternoons**. Our TA's will be **Mrs Jeans** (mornings) and **Mrs Riley**.

It is so encouraging to see how brilliantly the children have settled in already to the new routines. Thank you for encouraging them to enter the school independently, through the Dolphins gate and into school through the mosaic doors. Thank you too for adhering to the one-way system; it really does give us peace of mind and ensures that we are following government guidelines and ensuring each other's safety as much as possible. If you have any concerns or things that I might need to know regarding your child, do please email or leave a telephone message with the office if it is rather more pressing.

## Our Topic

Our topic has a history focus and we are very excited to be studying The Stone Age. The children are already excited about this! If anybody has any expertise that you think might help us to bring this topic alive, it would be great to hear from you. Please find the overview of anticipated learning attached.



## Homework

Your child will be set homework tasks on **Mondays**. To avoid too many books travelling between school and home, these tasks will be on Maths Shed and Spelling Shed. I will be able to set tasks and monitor them remotely. If access to the internet or technology is an issue, do let me know and we can explore alternatives. Please could I ask that you ensure that your child completes their homework. If for any reason they are unable to complete their assignment in a given week (I do appreciate that some weeks are busier than others), do let me know and they can come to **Homework Club**. I would suggest at least 15 minutes a week on spelling practice (ideally a few minutes each day, if they can) **and** 15 minutes on the maths should be plenty. Of course, if they want to spend longer, they can!

By the end of year 3, Children are expected to be fluent and rapid in their recall of their 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 X tables. Regular practise at home (on Maths Shed or Times Tables Rock Stars), really does make a difference.

## Reading

Your child will need their **reading book and record in school every day**. We encourage the children to practise their reading regularly at home. Please do record, in your child's reading record, when they share a book with you. The children (particularly those in year 3) will be expected to write a comment about their reading at least once a week. There are sentence starters in their reading records to support their ideas. If your child finds it tricky to write in the boxes, some parents have pencilled in faint lines, which really helps. We have also included ideas of questions that you could ask to improve their comprehension skills.

## PE

We will continue The Daily Mile and Wake Up, Shake Up. All children should come into school in PE kit on Fridays. This should include a Durweston PE T-shirt, black shorts and sturdy trainers and later in the year, a blue fleece or hoody and dark track-suit bottoms. Spare socks would be helpful too!

## Seahorses Class Library

Some parents have been asking about recommended books for their children to read. Our class library has a selection from which to choose, but with so many new titles and fabulous children's literature being published, it is a little tricky to keep up with current trends. We have compiled a varied wish list here on Amazon that our library is lacking:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2NH1WCPP7LKNL?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2NH1WCPP7LKNL?ref=wl_share)

By all means, use this list to provide books for your child. However, what would be even better is if you could purchase a book for the class (the address details are already set up). This would allow the whole class to benefit from it and enrich our library even more! Of course, the more people who take part, the greater the choice of books available for your child, at the cost of just one book to yourself.

To acknowledge your kind donation and show our appreciation, we will place a donation slip in the front of each book that you purchase for us.

This is of course, just a suggestion and is in no way compulsory. If you have any of these titles on your shelves at home that you no longer need and wish to donate, we would love to have them.

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### **Gentle Reminders:**

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- **Name labels in all clothes are a must!**
  - **Water bottles and raincoats in school every day too, please.**
  - **All slips returnable in the slip box in the classroom.**
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### **Key Dates**

**9th October** – You will receive the termly topic homework.

**15th October** – Individual photographs

**22nd/23rd October** – Parent/Teacher meetings

**23rd October** – Training Day

**26th October** – Half Term Week

**13th November** – Welly Walk (PM)

**23rd November** – Open Afternoon to showcase homework.

**18th December** – School closes at 1pm

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*The Seahorses Team*

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