

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 and we will be preparing 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 areas of the curriculum.

Homework/Diaries

Homework will continue as it did in Autumn term. 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 should be much more than one sentence long and further paper can be provided if needed. 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 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 continue to provide Spelling Shed, Read Theory, Sumdog 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 where children can choose an activity and complete it to share at our open morning (see newsletters for details)

PE

Elliott from 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 be completing 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 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. 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 continue to teach Porpoises on a Tuesday 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,

Catrina Johnstone (Teacher) and the Porpoise Class Team.