Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you’ve all had an excellent half term holiday and are ready for all the challenges that the rest of the Autumn term may bring, on the run up to Christmas!

Curriculum

This week the class will be starting their new topic - “What was so Important to the Victorians?” an attached to this letter are the areas we will be covering, split into each individual subject. This is a popular topic with the children, where we will be looking at the achievements of the Victorian era and be comparing the life of rich and poor Victorians to how we live today. We will also be covering the growth of the British Empire and continuing our work on maps; learning to interpret them and use grid references.

The children have been given a new timetable for their learning packs which shows the PE days. They have Games outside on Tuesdays and Gymnastics on Thursday afternoons. We are very lucky to have the expertise of Mr Denham this half term, who will take the class for Gym every week until the end of term. There are a few changes, as other areas of the Curriculum have had to be moved to accommodate this, but we will stick to the timetable, unless we have Sports Festivals or extra whole school activities.

Please could you make sure that your child has their correct PE Kit in school at all times. There have been a few occasions where children haven’t had shorts for Gym, outdoor clothing or have complained that their trainers don’t fit, so do check that they have everything. By using the planner diaries, we are encouraging the children to take ownership of their own learning/needs so we are relying on them to tell you what they need and when! Any extra information for the week is given to the children to write into their diaries and please use these to communicate with us too!

Reading records will be checked weekly and the children will continue to read in a group with an adult. It is down to the children to tell us when they need a new book and the children know that they should record any of their reading in their reading diaries. In English we will be writing biographies about Dr Barnado and then our text this half term is ‘Street Child’ by Berlie Doherty. We will also be looking at some classic tales and poetry from Victorian times and writing diaries and newspaper reports.

Homework

The arrangements for Homework are staying the same. The children will have a spelling test on Monday and a Mental Maths test on Friday. We are still checking that the children know and understand thoroughly the Year 3 /4 Spellings list and some children have now started on the first few columns of the Year 5/6 list.

Maths Homework will be given out by Mrs Sutherland which is to be returned on Wednesdays. Many children are progressing through their times tables and have shown great pride when they have been rewarded with their certificates and badges in Assembly. I have had to encourage a few children to join in but am hoping that many of the Year 5s will soon speed through all the levels. Any support with this would be greatly appreciated.

The children will be sent home with their new Learning Log tasks on Friday. Thank you for your help with this, as we have had some wonderful Stone Age weapons and tools and some very creative villages, which the children loved showing to the rest of the class. However, we have spoken to the children about completing their homework to a Year 5 standard. Some Learning Logs have been completed in felt tip or biro and there is no comparison to the standard of handwriting, presentation or written work they would normally produce in school. The children are well aware of our expectations and that any homework completed is supposed to complement the work done in school. We realise that it is sometimes difficult to dedicate free time to homework but ask if you could remind your child about basic rules of presentation and encourage them to try something new and to do their very best.

Do not hesitate to contact us by email if you haven’t managed to catch up with us during school hours.

Regards,

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