



Welcome back!

I hope that you have all enjoyed your summer holidays and are looking forward to this school year.

We have a very busy half term lined up, along with Hazel class, starting with our trip to Thorpe Woodlands. We will be gaining lots of new experiences to test our 'Growth Mind-sets' by taking part in activities such as canoeing, archery and climbing to name but a few things! I will be holding a meeting for parents (letter to follow), so that we can go through the plans and I can answer any questions that you may have.

Spellings

Spellings will be tested on Mondays, music has moved to Fridays. Each week the children will be given around 8 words, which they will need to practise at home. These words are taken from the Year 3/4 word list and the spelling patterns that we learn over the year.

The children will be completing activities with these words throughout the week, so that they will have plenty of opportunities to practise them and see them in context.

When helping your child learn their spellings, you can use the 'look, cover, write' method or you could get them to write the word in different styles or trace the letters with their fingers in the air. Use whichever methods works best for your child; the more opportunities that they have to practise their spellings the better they will do. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Times tables

By the time children leave Year 4, they are expected to know their multiplication and division facts (up to the 12 times table) by heart. In order to help them achieve this target, we will be continuing with our Times Table Challenge.

The challenge is a timed quiz of around 15/20 questions. It starts with the 10 times table and then builds in each table as the child moves on. This is designed so that the children must keep recalling the tables that they have previously learned, rather than focusing on each table in isolation.

We will be working on strategies to recall multiplication facts within lessons, as well as using them in games throughout the day. Each child's results are monitored, so that if they need extra support or increased challenge then they will receive it.

It is important that you help your child keep up to date with learning these at home. They will know which tables they need to focus on and they are welcome to take copies of the challenge home to help them practise.

Reading

In Destination Reader, we read from the class book for two days, in groups for two days and then practise our comprehension skills on the Friday. This means that the children are spending approximately 45 minutes each day in reading practise.

As you will remember from last year, they still have their own individual reading books for home reading. When you read with your child, ask them questions about what they have read, what they understand has happened and ask them to show 'proof' within the story to back-up their ideas. It is very important that they read regularly at home, as it helps to build their skills and confidence. Please try to hear your child read at least 4 times a week, and initial or comment in their reading record each time that you do.

PE

PE will be on Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons. As the weather is getting colder, please can you remember to send in a warm jumper and jogging trousers so that we can still go outside if the weather allows.

Music

This year Hazel and Oak class will be given the opportunity to benefit from tuition from the music service. Music lessons will be every Friday.

If you have any questions about anything that we will be covering this term, feel free to come and ask.

Thank you again,

Jennie Owen