**January 2017 Newsletter**

Dear children and parents/carers,

I do hope that you have all had a lovely, relaxing Christmas break and are now ready for another busy term in Base 2.

The children have now settled into a good morning routine. I would just like to take this opportunity to remind you that our school day starts at 8:55am and I will be at the door ready to meet you from 8:45am, please do arrive promptly. There is always a morning activity ready and this time is really important for us to talk through the day’s learning and prepare as a class for the day ahead. Please do also use this ‘meet and greet’ time in the morning to pass me any messages, letters or monies rather than sending them directly to the office.

**Teaching and Learning**

The overarching theme for our learning in school this term is ‘**Journeys’**. In base to we are going to think about being explorers who go on a journey. In the first half term we will take taking a trip to the Polar Regions and explore the North and South Pole and in the second half term we will be journeying into space!

We have a selection of wonderful texts to lead our learning this term, including *Poles Apart* by Jeanne Willis, *Immi* by Karin Littlewood, *The Rainbow Bear* by Michael Morpurgo, *Toys in Space* by Mini Grey, *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon, and *The Way Back Home* by Oliver Jeffers. Each of these texts will provide us with different opportunities to develop our writing and comprehension skills, but I am also hoping that they will inspire our learning across the whole curriculum.

Many of the curriculum subjects have been woven together to make our learning more meaningful this term. The holistic Spring term overview gives a flavour of the work we will be covering.

We are lucky to have a beautiful outside learning environment and so will try to learn outside of the classroom as much as possible. Please do bring a coat to schools (and hats and gloves when it is especially cold), we will go outside whatever the weather.

Over the page is your **weekly timetable** for this term:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **Session 1** | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics  French  Mrs Sharpe |
| **Morning break** | | | | | |
| **Session 2** | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy |
| **Lunch - 1 hr** | | | | | |
| **15 min assemblies** | Assembly PHSE | PE  Sportscape | Learning Journey | Assembly  In the news | RE  Mrs Evans |
| **Session 3** | Learning Journey | Learning Journey |
| **Session 4** | Learning Journey  Mrs Griffin | PE | Stars of the week Assembly |

Note: *Learning Journey time will be used to cover the other subjects - Science, geography, history, computing, art, D&T and music.*

**PE:** Please be prepared for PE with a full kit - red tee-shirt, black shorts and trainers. A sweatshirt/joggers in grey/black/ navy for the colder sessions is recommended.

**Regular homework**

* **Daily reading** – please do make time to read together as much as possible. It is really important at this stage for the children read little and often, but also to share books together and talk about the words and what is happening.
* **Spellings** – spelling tests will be on a Thursday during phonics lessons. The new spellings for the week will then be sent home on a Friday.
* **Maths** – I will set a MyMathsor other maths homework **every two weeks** on a Monday. These will be short tasks or games to help consolidate our learning.
* **Additional homework** – every half term I might set some additional homework to support our learning in class. This might be a creative, making or finding out task. Often you will have a choice of things to do.

I would be grateful if you could encourage and support your children with these tasks at home, they will all designed to either consolidate learning we have done in class or in preparation for something we will be doing. I will set the first maths homework of the term next Monday (16th January).

**Parent partnership**

As you all know, I really believe that good parent partnership is key to your child's success. I think that communication between parents and teachers is so important for a child’s progress and well-being. Please do let me know of anything that might have happened that you think might have upset or might impact your child at school. It always helps to be informed and I am happy to help in any way that I can. Of course, I also like to hear about all of the lovely things the children have been up to, but they do usually let me know when we have anything to celebrate!

I will always be available at the door for a quick chat in the mornings or at home time. Please do not hesitate to catch me then, or we can arrange a mutually convenient time to talk.

Kind regards,

Miss Pitchford