**April 2017 Newsletter**

Dear children and parents/carers,

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

The children now have a really good morning routine and I would just like to take this opportunity to remind you that our school day starts at 8:55am. I will be at the door ready to meet you from 8:45am, please do arrive promptly. There is always a morning activity ready for the children 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 ‘**Global Communities’**. In Base 2 we will be learning all about Africa. We will be learning about the landscape, the people and the animals who live there.

We have a selection of wonderful texts to lead our learning this term, including *Meerkat Mail* by Emily Gravett, *Handa’s Surprise* by Eileen Browne, *Hunter* by Paul Geraghty, *Mama Panya’s Pancakes* by Mary and Rich Chamberlin and *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain* by Verna Aadema. 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 Summer 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 school (and hats and sun cream as the weather starts to get warmer), we will go outside whatever the weather.

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **Session 1** | Literacyreading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacyreading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacyreading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacyreading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacyreading/ writing / SPAG/ phonicsFrenchMrs Sharpe |
| **Morning break** |
| **Session 2** | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy |
| **Lunch - 1 hr** |
| **15 min assemblies** | Assembly PHSE | PESportscape | Learning Journey | AssemblyIn the news | REMrs Evans |
| **Session 3** | Learning Journey | Learning Journey |
| **Session 4** | Learning JourneyMrs 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.

Every child goes to a well-being club once a week at lunch time with an adult who they do not see every day in their classroom. It is a lovely opportunity for the children to spend time with children from other classes and have another adult to touch base with. Our well-being lunch clubs focus this term is ‘You can do it!’ encouraging all our children t approach their learning with a positive mind-set and a ‘can do’ attitude, being resilient and not giving up.

**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 to build up their stamina. Sharing books and reading to your children is also really important as it is an opportunity to talk about the words and what is happening as well as letting the children hear you read fluently.

This term I will be making each child a reading target book mark which will travel between school and home in their reading record or reading book. On here I will write their current reading target so the children are really clear on what they have to work on and we are both working on the same thing at school and at home.

* **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.

In the next week I will also be sending home a list of common exception words, these are words that your children should be able to spell by the end of the year. They have been marked to show if the children got them right or wrong in a recent test. I would be grateful if you could take a few of the words they do not yet know to learn each week alongside their weekly spellings.

* **Maths** – mathshomework **every week** on a Monday, this will be a maths task in the homework book or possibly a MyMaths task. These will be short tasks or games to help consolidate our learning.
* **Additional homework** – each half term I will set some additional optional 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.

**Assessments**

This term the year 2 children will undertake their end of KS1 assessments. These will take place in May and will fit into our normal routines to avoid unnecessary worry on your child’s part.

The year 1 children will also undertake the Phonics Screening Check. This consists of reading 40 words, some real and some alien. This will take place the week commencing 12th June.

**Snack**

Snack will be available for Mrs Warner at break times each day, but if your child wants to bring a snack from home please ensure that it is a healthy snack as we are promoting healthy living. In support of the government;s ‘Obesity Strategy’ (August 2016) to promote a healthy diet, chocolate, sweets and crisps will no longer be allowed for snack.

**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