



HOLLY CLASS



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the beginning of another year at St John the Baptist and Holly Class. I hope you have all had a lovely summer break. The children have a fun-packed term ahead with the introduction of a brand new history unit about Ancient Benin. They have already tried their hand at some African weaving during our transition morning last term so I cannot wait to see what they produce. There is also a topic overview for you to have a look at some of the key activities and learning journeys the children will be covering.

START OF THE DAY



The gates open at 8:40am, giving your child some quiet time for reading before the school day starts. Registration will take place at 8:50am, so please ensure that your child is in school by this time.

P.E. AND GAMES



It is very important that the children have their PE kit in school throughout the week so that they can fully participate in these lessons. Please make sure your child has suitable trainers for outside games. As we go into the Autumn term, children may wish to bring in tracksuit bottoms for warmth when outside. **Please ensure that all of your child's kit is named. Earrings should be removed for PE and Games.** If this is not possible, then they should be covered with micro-pore tape provided by you. Long hair must be tied back. Holly Class will have outside

PE on Tuesdays and we will be inside on Thursdays.

READING



All children will be expected to read every day and some comments written into their reading comments book please. We will circulate the Parent Reading Information booklets again, which provide ideas for questions in order to test your child's understanding of what they are reading. All books should be handed in on a Monday and will be returned on Tuesday. Children will be given opportunities during the week to access the Accelerated Reader quiz linked to their completed book. In line with the new Reading Framework, we will be adapting the reward system to make it more inclusive and use it as an opportunity to celebrate reading.



1. Their vocabulary is larger and more extensive.
2. They perform better academically.
3. Their imagination can run wild.
4. Their creativity skills develop.
5. They develop empathy.
6. They gain a deeper understanding of their world.
7. Their concentration levels improve.
8. The parent and child bond improves.
9. Their cognitive development is supported.
10. Their social skills and interaction improve.

HOMEWORK

As explained during the 'Meet the Teacher' presentation, children will now be working from a homework grid.



There are a variety of activities to choose from and may be completed in any order. The hand in dates for all work is detailed on the grid which will be stuck into the front of their homework book. There will also be a copy available on the website. Children will receive a maximum of 6 weekly words that will be based on their spelling sessions. This is to help them learn the rule, which they will then apply to a range of words within a piece of fortnightly dictation. Children will be provided with some activities to help them practise. Children will also be given some 'Maths Facts' that they will need to learn in preparation for work the following week.

TIMES TABLES PRACTICE

As part of their homework, children are expected to practise their times tables on a regular basis. We would



recommend TTRockStars (TTRS) and Hit the Button to support their tables' learning (there are links on the website). **It is important that Year 4 children should practise their times tables regularly as the Multiplication Check will take place in June.** The format is very similar to the 'Sound Check' feature in TTRS.

COOKING



As part of the Design and Technology curriculum, each KS2 class will continue to receive cooking lessons with Mrs van Zanten. To that end, we are kindly asking that all children make a £5 contribution towards the cost of ingredients by Friday 23rd September. We will be using eggs from the chickens when we can. Thank you.

HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES



As part of our aim to provide our children with healthy lifestyles, we would like to remind you that your child should be provided with a healthy packed lunch. If your child would like a snack at break time, please can you ensure it is a piece of fruit or vegetables, such as carrot sticks. **Please do not send your child to school with nuts, peanut butter or products containing nuts** as we do have children in school who are severely allergic to such items.

WATER BOTTLES



It is important that your child is kept hydrated throughout the day, so should have a **named** plastic bottle of drinking water to have in class; these should not be used for squash or fruit juice please.

SCHOOL CLUBS

We will be offering a range of clubs for the Autumn term. These will be detailed in the weekly newsletter.

AND FINALLY...

I look forward to working with your child this year. If you need to speak to me about your child at any point during the term, please contact the office or speak to me directly after school.

With kind regards

Mrs C Wellby