



HOLLY CLASS



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term - I hope you have had a lovely Christmas break. Here are some highlights for this term (more details can be found within the topic overview):

- Children will study how we know about the Vikings through artefacts found such as longboats, weapons and burial sites. They will learn about the lives of Vikings through a range of evidence sources.
- Children will sketch Viking patterns and dragon eyes, culminating in the creation of a clay dragon eye.
- Music will continue the journey of learning to play the recorder, adding the notes high C and D and lower E.
- Children will make a sensory cushion in their design and technology lesson.

We are in the process of organising a trip to the Theatre Royal in Brighton to watch The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. This is taking place in March so further details will be available shortly.

START OF THE DAY

The gates open at 8:40am with registration at 8:50am. Your child will have the opportunity to do some spelling activities / quiet reading during this time and they will also be able to access Accelerated Reader quizzes. **Arriving on time is a great start to the day, putting your child in the right frame of mind to make the most of the day's learning. Good punctuality is linked to good attendance which leads to better outcomes for children.**



P.E. AND GAMES



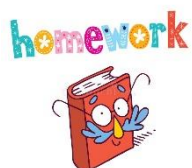
It is very important that the children have their PE kit in school throughout the week so that they can fully participate in these lessons. Please make sure your child has suitable trainers for outside games. **Please ensure that all of your child's kit is named. Earrings should be removed for PE and 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 a Friday and we will be inside every Monday.

READING



It has been lovely to read both children's and adults comments in the reading journals last term. Unfortunately, there are a small number of children in Holly class who are not reading as often as they could be. Reading is an important life skill, and therefore ALL children should be reading regularly. From this term, reading is being carefully monitored in a renewed drive to ensure all our children are accessing books regularly. To that end, it would be appreciated if you could encourage your child to read either a chapter or 10 pages of their book **every day**. Children are given opportunities every morning to complete an Accelerated Reader quiz linked to their completed book.

HOMEWORK



Children will be issued with a new homework grid for this term. I was very impressed with the high-quality work that was produced last term and cannot wait to see what the children will produce during the Spring term. We will endeavour to supply children with additional resources to help them with their work, but if you require any further items, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Here is an overview of the homework for KS2 children:

Weekly -

maths, daily reading and practising times tables

Fortnightly -

spelling and grid homework

SPELLING

Children will be given spelling lists with examples of words that demonstrate the fortnightly spelling rule / pattern. The statutory spellings are also included. **Children are not required to learn the whole list in a week, but should split it into two halves.** Where appropriate, they will be asked to explore other words that follow the given rule through their homework activities. Again, please encourage your child to complete their homework activities as they reinforce the work we are doing in the class.

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 learning (there are links on the website). However, a booklet will be circulated shortly that provides alternatives to digital learning. I also have practice booklets for each times tables that children can access along with flash cards. Please let me know if you would like any of these resources to help your Year 4 child's learning. All Year 4s will access a TTRockStars mock Multiplication Check in January. This is a helpful auditing tool to see any gaps and where additional support is needed.

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 Spring term. These will be detailed in the weekly newsletter.

AND FINALLY...

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. If there are any parents who would like to listen to children read, please let me know.

With kind regards

Mrs C Wellby