

Torrige Parents Newsletter – Autumn Term

2018

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer break and made the most of the wonderful weather we have had. This term will no doubt fly by as there is so much to fit in, and before we know it, we will be planning for Christmas!

Staffing

This term, Mrs Cook will be working in Torrige class every morning and Mrs Burrige will work in Taw class during the mornings. During the afternoons, Mrs Cook will be supporting small groups of children with their learning.

On Monday afternoons children in Torrige class will be taking part in Forest School activities with Mrs Pierson during the first half of each term. Taw Class will have Forest School during the second half of each term, when Mr Parsons will teach Torrige Class. On Tuesday afternoons, Achieve4All will teach PE. To start the term, children will be learning to develop their netball and volleyball skills. There will be a netball tournament in October for Y5& Y6. Mrs Palmer will be teaching RE also on Tuesday afternoon. On Wednesday mornings, Mrs Collins will teach music. This term all children will be learning the recorder during lessons. We have recorders in school that the children can loan. They will be asked to take them home to practice during the week and return them to school for their music lesson. If the children would like to continue to learn the recorder we ask that they buy their own as the 'class set' will be needed elsewhere in the federation. Mrs Collins can advise on the type of recorder you might consider buying as there are some that would be unsuitable. Mr Parsons will teach a second lesson of PE on Wednesday morning. Please can children keep a PE kit in school all week. The kit should contain trainers, shorts, T-shirt and a pair of tracksuit bottoms for colder weather.

On Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday, Mr Parsons will be working in his SENDCo role across the federation. Mrs Stacey Rogers will be teaching in Taw class.

Learning

We will be 'blocking' our lessons this term to allow us to focus our study. We start with science, where we will learn about animal classification, evolution and fossils. I am hoping to arrange a visit to go fossil hunting on Charmouth beach in October to support this topic. More details on this will be sent home shortly. We will then study the geography of the coast and coastal Britain.

With the 100 year anniversary of World War 1 ending in November, we will have a short history topic on World War 1 straight after half term.

Our art topic will be to study and draw portraits and our second science topic, at the end of the term, will be a study of animal skeletons and muscle function.

ICT, French and PHSE will be taught during the second half of term.

Further details about our curriculum can be found on our website.

Literacy and maths will continue to be taught every day. Children will be encouraged to learn all their times tables to 12x12 by the end of Year 4.

Children will be set a table each week as homework and have a table test each Wednesday. All year groups will be tested.

Spellings will continue to be taught in lesson time but this year, both Year 5 and Year 6 will work on the same spelling rules and Year 3 and Year 4 will work on the same rules. This will give us more time to embed and practise the spelling rule in our writing. Spelling homework will be sent home each week. It has been proven that spelling tests alone will not improve spelling. We will do some tests but these may not be done weekly.

Other home-learning may be sent home to be completed as a consolidation of our class work. Children will be given a couple of days to complete these tasks which should be completed as neatly as possible. Year 6 will be given an increasing amount of homework in preparation for their SATs tests next May.

Children will be expected to read every day as part of their homework and they should record their reading in their reading record book. This year we will be having an optional Library Challenge: to read as many "author of the month" books as possible. We start with Roald Dahl as our 'September' author.

Other events this term

Our Harvest service will take place in September.

Bikeability will be offered to Year 5 and Year 6 this October and further details will be sent home shortly.

A parent's evening will take place in October before half term.

We will end the term with a school Christmas performance – 'Stargazers'.

As you can see, the term is packed with activity and learning which I hope your child finds enjoyable. If you are concerned about your child's time in school please make an appointment to speak with me.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Evans