

# TORRIDGE CLASS PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and you and your loved ones have remained healthy. I start this academic year with a lot of optimism that we will not have lessons interrupted due to Covid as we did in the last 2 years. The school will continue with Covid safety measures. These will be to keep rooms well ventilated, to encourage regular handwashing and cleaning of hard surfaces, to maintain social distancing where possible and to restrict the number of adults who enter school. Please be mindful that as autumn progresses, well-ventilated rooms may be harder to keep warm and children should wear layers of clothing under school sweatshirts to keep warm.

This year, while our numbers in Taw class are growing, we will only have 3 year groups in Torrridge class. This is quite fortunate as it allows each pupil to have a greater focus for teaching and will help them to close any gaps in their learning.

Our class focus this year will be on spelling and presentation of work. We have doubled the spelling sessions in a week and I will continue to encourage children to use their Doodle Spelling account to practice and improve.

To encourage reading for pleasure children will be growing 'Bookworms' whenever they complete reading books: for each book completed they will gain another 'body segment' for their worm. There is a target list of books for each ability group to read but reading any book - fiction/non-fiction, books from home or school will count towards their worm.



In science this term we will be studying the Earth, Moon and the Solar System. We will also extend our understanding of light and how we see. At the moment we are unable to confirm any school trips to support this topic; however we are reviewing this all the time and will keep you informed.

Our history topic this year is to study the Ancient Egyptians. This is a fascinating subject as we learn about the gruesome process of mummification!



In Art we will study the works of Wassily Kandinsky and increase our understanding of the use of colour in pictures. Our DT topic will link to our science on light and we will build an electric torch.

Our computing topic this term will be to continue to develop our understanding of online safety and what it means to be a good digital citizen. I will be sending you a separate email in the next couple of days with information on your child's logon accounts they have in school. Please respond with permission for me to give your child their email log on. If you do not want your child to have their email logon then I can withhold it from them.

PHSE this term will allow children to learn how to weigh up risks they may meet in life including drugs and alcohol. They will also consider Human Rights and consider the plight of refugees. This is likely to be linked to current world events and will be supported with the children's First News newspaper. We will continue with our Right Respecting School Award, and hopefully this term will see us accredited with our Silver Award.

In RE this term we will be questioning whether the Christian account of creation in Genesis conflicts with the scientific theories. In the second half of term we will be considering whether Jesus was the messiah.

Mrs Buckley will continue to teach music on Wednesday mornings and this term the children will learn to play the ukulele; Ms Fern Kent-Smith will teach Forest School on Monday afternoon and A4A will be coming into school Tuesday during the first half of term to teach PE. PE kit should remain in school all week as we may include extra PE sessions during lunch times etc.

This term we will not be having a large end-of-term drama performance. We will look to have a performance in the summer term and we will hold a nativity to mark the end of this term.

This year I am expecting the normal official assessments and tests to be restarted. This will mean that Year 4 pupils will have a timed Times-Table online assessment in June next year; Year 6 will be taking SATs tests the week beginning May 9<sup>th</sup>. (In KS1 Year R will have a base-line assessment in September, Year 1 will have a phonics assessment in June and Year 2 will have SATs in May). This will be reviewed throughout the year, but is the intention of the government for now. Please do not book holidays in school term time as the children have a very full timetable and it does disrupt their learning.

I will be running a Year 6 homework club to help prepare children for their tests. Details will be sent to the Year 6 parents soon. A4A's sports club for KS2 requires online booking. Other clubs will be starting next week and permission slips will be sent out soon.

Please feel free to contact me by email, or ask Sarah for a face to face appointment if you have any concerns about your child's time in Torridge this year.

Best wishes

Wendy Evans

Day	8.50 - 9.25am	9.25 - 10.20am		10.45 - 11.45am		1.30 - 2.30pm	2.30 - 3.30pm
Mon	SPELLINGS WE DB	LITERACY WE	BREAK 10.20- 10.40	MATHS WE DB	ASSEMBLY 11.45 – 12.05 LUNCH 12.05-13.30	SCIENCE SR	FOREST SCHOOL FKS DB
Tues	SPELLINGS WE DB	LITERACY WE		MATHS WE DB		PHSE/MFL SR	PE A4A
Wed	TABLE TEST LB	MUSIC LB		GEOGRAPHY/ HISTORY RP		MATHS WE	Guided Reading and 1:1 WE DB
Thurs	SPELLINGS WE DB	LITERACY WE		MATHS WE DB		RE WE	COMPUTING WE
Fri	SPELLINGS WE DB	LITERACY WE		MATHS WE DB		ART/DT	