



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely Summer break and managed to have some family time together and relax. The children have been settling in so well and the year 5s are getting used to the routines and structure of Squirrel class brilliantly.

This year, Squirrels will be supported in class by Mrs Hix. Mr Beresford will continue to teach PE on a Tuesday and Mrs Shimwell will now teach RE. Mr Waining will be teaching Squirrels on a Wednesday afternoon and Mrs Gilbertson will continue with music on Mondays. All staff have access to the online concerns form and Mrs Barrett is often in school even during her PPA time, however should there be any concerns please do let us know and Mrs Barrett or Mrs Gilbertson will be in touch.

PE

This year, Squirrels will be doing PE on a Tuesday and a Wednesday – please ensure children come to school in their PE kits and trainers on these days. If the weather is wet, then please send them with dry socks and shoes as we will still try and get them outside whenever possible. If we have a tournament or competition, notice will be given of when this is so children know to come in PE kit on these days too. If you have a child with ear piercings that cannot be removed then please send tape or plasters so these can be covered.

No other jewellery should be worn, other than a pair of studs while ears are healing. A watch may be worn (not a smart watch) but is the child's own responsibility. Please also ensure long hair is tied back; no other jewellery.

Spellings

New spellings will be taught on a Monday and tested the following Monday. Children will receive a list of spellings to take home at the start of each half term – it will also be available on the website. A list of the year 5/6 statutory words has also been sent home at the start of the year. These are included within spellings tests, but are handy to have so you are aware of the words the children are expected to know and include in their writing.

Homework

Both year groups will be given weekly homework that matches a part of their learning in class and may be from different areas of the curriculum. This will be given out on a Tuesday to be handed in and marked the following Tuesday morning.

Reading

Reading is important throughout the school and we promote a positive reading environment in our classroom. All children will have at least one reading book that they are able to bring between home and school. Children are encouraged to read every day, be it at home or at school, and we will always have a class text that we are reading together in class. This may sometimes be linked to topic or just a reading for pleasure text. Each child has a reading record that is also expected to be used between home and school where adults can also write comments where they have heard reading. It is important that the reading record comes back to school each day.

I understand home life can be very busy, so I appreciate your support in helping children learn their spellings, complete homework and ensure they read. It helps extend their knowledge, promote a positive learning attitude and prepare them for secondary school.



Children can bring a small bag to school (plus a lunch box / bag), if necessary, but no big backpacks / bags please as we have very limited cloakroom space. Please always ensure they have a coat as we do try to get out at least twice a day even in the drizzle.

The class webpage will be updated each half term with what we are learning and some photos of what we have been getting up to. There will also be a copy of the topic web; a printed copy of this will also be sent home towards the start of each half term.

If you have any questions or concerns then please don't hesitate to ring the school office or make an appointment to have a chat. As usual there will be parents evening meetings towards the end of the half term.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Barrett