

## Peacocks Class - Term 1 Newsletter (16<sup>th</sup> September 2019)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after a lovely summer holiday; I hope you have had a restful and enjoyable break and are all ready for a brand new school year!

Our overarching topic for terms one and two is called 'Challenge Chilham - can we make a difference?'. It will focus on the environment and sustainability and we will be referring back to these ideas throughout the terms within our curriculum. We will be venturing outside and enjoying and exploring the great outdoors in a number of ways across a range of subjects, which I am sure the children will absolutely love! This includes experiencing our forest school in the grounds of Chilham Castle, providing the children with even more exciting hands-on learning opportunities (more details to follow). Please have a look through our topic web to see an overview of Peacocks learning activities in more detail across the curriculum. If there is anything you would like to contribute through your own knowledge, experience, links or resources, please do let us know!

Reading for pleasure will be a huge focus in Peacocks Class and we greatly value your support with your child's daily reading at home as this complements their access to learning at school and therefore promotes progress in their abilities and understanding. Children are never too old to be read to or to be listened to reading. Please could you remind your child to record their reading in their Reading Record. Their target is to read 5 times a week. Reading 20 minutes per day will dramatically improve their imagination, vocabulary and comprehension skills.

### **Another reminder regarding regular routines:**

- Reading books and Reading Records should be brought into school every day.
- Spellings will be tested on a Monday with new spellings being sent out on the same day and will be based on the rule(s) being taught that week. Children are expected to be able to spell words from the Y3 & 4 and Y5 & Y6 spelling list set out in the National Curriculum. A copy of these lists can be found in your child's Reading Record. We will often refer back to these spellings and the weekly spellings during our day-to-day learning throughout the course of the year.
- Homework will be due in on a Friday with new homework being set on the same day. This will consist of Maths which will be linked to our learning that week or arithmetic. English will be spellings and reading. There may be times throughout the term, when additional topic-based tasks might be set (often researching something linked to our topic which continues to develop the children's inquisitive minds and love of learning at home).
- PE will be on a Friday. Please can you ensure your child has their PE kit and that it is named. It should be in school every day as there may be times when our timetable might change slightly.
- Our Forest School sessions will be on a Tuesday morning - starting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September (more details to follow).
- Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school every day which can be kept in the classroom for them to have access to throughout the day.
- Rewards - As a class, we will continue to collect marbles in a jar which are earned through whole class achievements as well as earning Team Points. In addition to this, Peacocks can earn raffle tickets too for demonstrating a super attitude to learning and showing respect and kindness to others.

Lastly, on a personal note, I would like to add that I am very excited to join Chilham St Mary's and would like to say a huge thank you for your warm welcome. I look forward to the adventure ahead with Peacocks Class. ☺

If there is anything you need to speak to myself or Mrs Smith about, please do not hesitate to talk to us; we would be more than happy to help.

Best wishes,

*Miss Fassum & Mrs Smith*