

Ellesmere Primary School

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Acting Headteacher: Mr Stuart Roberts, BSc Hons, PGCE



Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a splendid time together over the holidays. It was great to see the children come back to school with such positive attitudes and lovely holiday stories. They made super progress last term and settled in to Year 4 life well. This term we will be working them even harder to ensure the progress continues, details given below. All of our weekly routines are remaining the same this term but we will provide you with a recap in this letter.

Topic



This term we move on from the History of World Conflicts, to the Geography of Australasia. The children have already begun to investigate the region itself, but we will mainly be focussing our study on Australia. We have already looked at the seven continents, longitude and latitude, Equator and the Tropics, and last week they learnt how to plot cities on a map. By the end of term, the children will be producing their own persuasive leaflets, using the skills we have studied. Once again, we will be holding a Curriculum Open afternoon where you will be invited to come in and view their efforts.

In English, we will be looking at the author Michael Morpurgo, comparing two of his books in order to study his use of style and structure of writing. We have begun to read 'Toro! Toro!', a dilemma story set in Spain during the Spanish civil war. In maths, the children are continuing to develop their number sense with a focus on decimal place value. They did extremely well learning their times tables last term, however, as we all know, if they don't use them they will lose them, so please continue to push this at home too. The expectation is that they will know all of their tables up to 12, by the end of year 4!



Homework



Children will continue to receive weekly homework. This will be set on a Friday and will consist of a piece of literacy and, either a written or online maths activity. The online maths activity will be through Mathletics or Purple Mash and the children will be informed when they need to complete them. If you experience any problems logging on, please let us know so we can try to solve the issue. Spelling and Big Maths tests will be conducted on a Friday. Please help your child to be prepared and give them a prompt to ensure they have their Homework Diary every Thursday.

Where possible encourage your child to read daily at home, even if it is just 5 minutes squeezed in. It doesn't have to be their book from school, it could be a magazine, comic, annual or anything else they enjoy. If your child has read to out loud to you, please make a note of it in their homework diary. In year four we are expecting the children to not only decode the words, but to understand what they have read as well. You can support them in



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this through questioning them about the book. This year, the school has identified reading as a key focus. We are encouraging the children to bring in their own books to share/swap and will be setting up a star rating system to review them. Every other Friday, you are invited to come in during Morning Thinking, to spend a few minutes at the start of the day sharing a book with your child to foster a love of reading. We have already had a great response to this initiative and look forward to seeing more of you in the future.

Parent workshops - On **Wednesday 7th February**, we would like to invite you to our parent workshops; this half term's focus will be Maths and particularly looking at the four calculations. If you would like to pop in and see how these fit into the new curriculum in year 4 our doors will be open at 9am and again at 6pm

Class Dojo- This term we will be continuing to use Class Dojo as the main means of communication between school and parents; sharing activities and upcoming events on the Class Story. Just a reminder that teachers have quiet hours on Class Dojo and will not reply to messages after 6pm and before 8am or at the weekend.

Swimming and P.E



We continue to have P.E on Wednesday afternoon. Children will need to bring (or keep in school), both their indoor AND outdoor kits with them each week unless told otherwise. As a school, we are aiming to ensure that all children are dressed consistently in line with school policy and are prepared for all conditions. Therefore

we ask that you make sure that your child has a white t-shirt, blue shorts and pumps/outdoor trainers. As specified in our transition letter, old round neck school jumpers can be used during colder conditions in addition to blue jogging bottoms, no other hoodies or bottoms please. Long hair also needs to be tied back for both girls and boys.

Swimming for both classes will also remain on a Tuesday afternoon. Please encourage your child to take responsibility for ensuring they have the required kit in school. Boys should be in fitted shorts or trunks and girls a one-piece swimming costume. It is suggested that children with earrings leave them out for that day or cover with tape if they have just been pierced. Children with long hair will also require a swimming cap.

Water bottles – children are allowed to have water bottles in class as it is good for them to keep hydrated throughout the day. **However**, they should only contain water: no juice please!



As always, we have an open door policy, if you have any questions please do not hesitate in coming in to speak to us.

Many thanks,

Mrs Clarke, Mrs Foster and Mrs Masey

