



Squirrel Class Newsletter

Summer Term 2019



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you all enjoyed the long Easter break, especially the lovely weather during the bank holiday weekend. The children have returned to school well rested & they are fully engaged in our whole school topic 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'.

Class News

This term Mrs Grant will be teaching Squirrel Class every day with the exception of Tuesday and Friday afternoons. In addition, we are delighted to welcome back Miss Chafer who will be continuing her teaching practice with us until the end of June. Miss Chafer will take responsibility for teaching specific year groups in some areas and the whole class in others. Her teaching commitment will increase as the term progresses. On Tuesday afternoons the children will have cricket with Plymouth Argyle for one hour and will be taught Art or PSHE by Mrs Rowe & Ms Hooke for the second hour. On Friday afternoons the children will have Music with Mr Warwick & ICT with Mr Jones. Mrs Stockman will continue to support the children with their learning every day, with the exception of Monday and Friday afternoons.

Curriculum News

As mentioned above, our whole school topic for this term is 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'. Our curriculum day last week to launch our topic was a great success and the children are already becoming great eco-rangers! Most curriculum subjects will be taught through our topic, with the exception of Maths (some links will be made), PE and RE.

Maths

In Maths this term, we will be completing units of work on number, measurement, geometry, and statistics. Reasoning will feature significantly in each of these areas. The children are continuing to do a fantastic job with learning their multiplication and division facts so far this year; thank you for your support with this! Here is a reminder of the current expectations:

- By the end of Year 2 children are expected to be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 x tables up to x 12.
- By the end 3 children are expected to be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 x table facts, up to x 12
- By the end of Year 4 children are expected to know and use multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12.

Next academic year the government will be introducing an online times table test for children in Year 4.

English

English will be taught through our topic. This half term the children will be reading and writing non-chronological reports about endangered animals. Next half term story writing and persuasive writing will be our key focus areas.

Phonics and Spelling

Group phonics lessons will be taught on a daily basis to those children who need reinforcement. All children will continue to receive spellings to learn at home on a weekly basis. These will be issued on a Monday this term and the children will have a spelling 'quiz' each Friday. At school, the children are asked to write sentences for at least half of their spellings. Please support them with writing a sentence for the remainder of their spellings at home.

Year 2 SATs

In the week prior to half term, Year 2 will be completing SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) in maths and reading. To provide you with more information, we will be holding a SATs meeting on Wednesday 8th May, from 3.30pm – 4.00pm. All parents of children in Year 2 are very welcome to attend. If you can't make this date, please pop in to make an alternative appointment.

Physical Education

This term Squirrel Class will be very active! They will have cricket with Plymouth Argyle on Tuesday afternoons, Judo with Eva on Wednesday afternoons and swimming lessons on Thursday afternoons. In addition to PE lessons, the children will participate in daily Wake and Shake sessions on the playground from 8.45am until 9.00am. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school every day.

Outdoor Learning – Cardinham Woods

Next half term we have planned three full days of outdoor learning in Cardinham Woods. The dates are as follows:

- Thursday 13th June
- Thursday 20th June
- Thursday 4th July

On these days the children will need to bring in a pair of old trousers, wellington boots and a waterproof coat. Children in Year 2 will be provided with a packed lunch from the school kitchen and children in Year 3 and 4 can either order one or bring one in from home.

RE

In RE we follow the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus and this term we will be looking at the creation story in Christianity and exploring Buddhist communities.

PSHE

Our PSHE work will link to our topic and will also encompass work around 'Moving On'. The children will have regular R time sessions where the emphasis is upon creating effective, respectful relationships by way of Random Pair work. After half term the children will also have Sex and Relationship Education lessons. You will be given the opportunity to look at the materials and your permission will be sought, prior to us embarking on the lessons.

Homework

Reading – Regular practice leads to accelerated progress and good readers become good writers. Please support your child by hearing them read, or sharing a book with them at least five times per week. Our reading karate incentive scheme is still running – challenge your child to work towards their next band!

Spellings – As detailed earlier in the letter.

Times tables – The children will be issued with times table sheets on a Monday (once a fortnight) and we will test them the following Friday. If your child has access to the Internet at home, they can practice their times tables on Hit the Button, Mathematics and Times Table Rock Stars.

Topic homework – With it being the summer term, we appreciate that it is important to enjoy the outdoors and enjoy the lighter evenings rather than being burdened with lots of homework. Therefore, topic homework this term is optional and we are encouraging the children to complete self-initiated research linked to our topic of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' if they wish to.

Important dates for your diary

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday Monday – school closed

Wednesday 8th May – SATs Meeting for Year 2 Parents, 3.30pm – 4.00pm

Tuesday 14th May – Year 3 Dance at Bodmin College, 9.00am – 11.30am (Parents to organise transport please)

Week beginning 20th May – Year 2 SATs Week & Walk to School Week

Friday 24th May – Break up for half term

If you have any questions about any of the above or you have any comments or concerns throughout the term then please don't hesitate to pop in. We are very happy to help.

Mrs Grant, Miss Chafer and Mrs Stockman