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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Autumn term!

I will be teaching Buzzard Class full time this term with Mrs. Gammon teaching in here on Monday afternoons for PE and RE. In the mornings when our focus will be Reading, Writing and Maths and in the afternoons we will cover the rest of the curriculum.

Mrs. Heseltine will be working with us every day.

Mrs. Gammon will take Buzzards on Monday afternoons for RE and PE. On a Tuesday afternoon Mr. Gatrell and Miss Hetherington will be leading Bury Rangers.

In English, we will be basing our work on the superb book 'Malamander' by Thomas Taylor. Please don't run out and buy it until we have finished the unit though – I need to keep them in suspense until the end!

Our spellings will be introduced on a Monday and we will focus on a pattern each week. The children will be asked to find it in their reading, use it in their writing and look at the root words within as well. Please make sure that your child plays Spelling Shed daily for a few minutes at home as this will really improve their fluency and confidence.

Our key 'home learning' will be reading. We ask you to hear your child read 5 times a week. I know how difficult this is – but there are often little slots of time when they can read to you – while you are cooking/ironing/ washing up or of course snuggled on the sofa or in bed. When children get to year 5 and 6, they often prefer to read to themselves, we of course we encourage, but reading to an adult helps them in so many ways. You can pick up incorrect pronunciation, question their understanding, discuss the story.

In Maths we will continue to cover the year 5 and 6 curriculum and will be incorporating regular investigations and problem solving. The curriculum tells us that our children should know all (up to 12) of their times tables by the end of Year 4, and so we really want them to be confident and fast at recall of these. Please make sure your child plays on the 'studio' part of Times Tables Rock Stars several times a week – the more regularly they play, the better they will get.

Initially, we will be studying a unit called Brilliant Bury- Churches. This will be a whole school unit with each class looking depth at one of the Arun Valley Parish's churches. We will be learning about St. Botolph's at Hardham, and St. Giles' in Coldwaltham.

We will be spending the rest of the term learning about the South Downs National Park.



In Science they will be covering light and forces.

On a Tuesday, the children will have Bury Rangers and will need to come to school wearing their Bury Rangers clothes.

On a Monday, the children will have outside PE and will need to come to school wearing PE kit including jogging bottoms or leggings and their school jumper. If they already have plain leggings or joggers then these are preferable. Only plain dark joggers or leggings will be acceptable after half term.

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in the classroom everyday – they are emptied at night, so don't need to take them home until a Friday. They will need an additional water bottle in their lunchbox if they are having packed lunch.

Please only send lunch boxes, water bottles, reading books and coats to school. Please do not send a school bag. Coats and lunchboxes will be kept in our classrooms and we do not have much room.

Buzzard class will start school at 8.50 - please bring your child to the big side gates by the hall to drop them off. Please remember to maintain social distancing between parents. At the end of the day, please wait by the gates and I will send the children to you. At each end of the day, please be prompt. If you need to talk to me, please either email or call school as we are trying to reduce the number of people who are coming into our 'bubbles'. Obviously, if it is a quick message that you can pass over at the gate, please do. The sooner little worries are sorted out the better!

We are continuing to use the Good to be Green behaviour system and Class Dojo to reward children for demonstrating both our school and Christian values. In the Good to be Green system, if a child makes a wrong choice we will give 2 verbal warnings – being specific about which rule has been broken- then a yellow card. If a child receives a yellow card then they will have to miss some of the net playtime to complete a reflection sheet with an adult. If the child continues to break the rules or is violent, then a red card will be given. This means that the child will be spoken to by Mr. Moore and you will be called to discuss the behaviour.

Year 6 children will be completing their SATs in May and we will be talking to you and them about preparing for these later in the year. If you would like to spend some extra time at home before then preparing for the tests, then the CGP books are really useful and can be bought cheaply on Amazon. There are both revision and work books.

Many thanks,
Laura Braun