



I hope this letter will help explain what we are doing in school this term and what you can do to help your child make excellent progress.

This half term.

Children have now settled into school life. It is great to hear happy voices and life in school returning to some kind of normal. Staff and pupils are working hard to fill in the inevitable gaps in learning that occurred due to lockdown. Over lockdown many parents learnt what skilled and difficult work teaching is.

What we have learnt.

Through a range of assessments, we have identified many gaps in learning and are now adapting our curriculum to close these gaps as quickly as possible.

Many children have found it difficult to return to learning routines after almost 6 months without 'normal' schooling. We have taken time to talk to them about their feelings and have gently returned to an adapted curriculum with a focus on basic skills. All children will benefit from practicing reading, times tables and spellings to help accelerate their progress.

If these key skills are practiced at home the learning in school can focus on helping children understand what they are **reading**, using number bonds and calculations to problem solve in many areas of **maths**, and using **spelling** to write with increased accuracy and fluency.

What can you do to help?

Spelling

Your teachers will send home weekly spelling lists. You can help by practising these **throughout the week**. There are suggestions for how to do this on your child's classroom page. For example, play a game such as dicey spellings, revisit previous lists and focus on words that you find tricky.

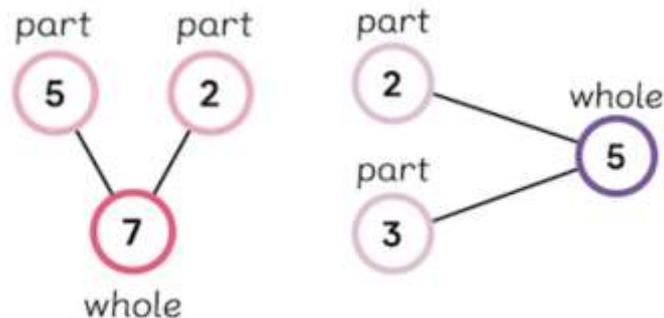
Maths

Look at the KIRF documents that we send out each half term and talk to your children about the facts that are essential to remember.

In Pebbles and Shells focus on counting number bonds of all numbers up to ten and then to twenty. Shown here is a great way

to learn these facts. You can miss out one of the numbers and ask your child to figure out the missing number. This may take some time but will help enormously in moving on and is the basis of a large part of the work we do in later years. Other ideas will be posted on the class pages.

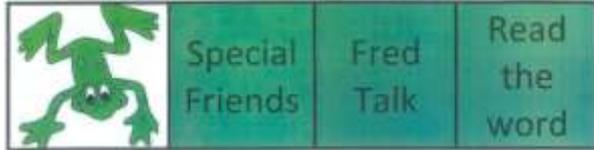
In Footprints, Waves and Surfers use TT Rock Stars to practice rapid recall of times tables. This app adapts to pupils levels of understanding and helps them make progress. This will help pupils enormously when making calculations and in other parts of the curriculum especially shape and space, and problem solving. In school, staff can monitor pupils' progress with their timetables and provide support in the areas where pupils may be stuck.



Any device that has the ability to connect to a browser can go to play.ttrockstars.com - so, if a games console allows the user to search online and log onto various websites then the user could go the web page and use their log on details there.

The app cannot be downloaded onto games consoles. It can be downloaded to a smartphone.

Reading



Reading is the key to the door to future success. The more pupils read the easier it will become. Children should read daily. In Pebbles and Shells we will send home Read Write Inc. materials. All pupils are familiar with, 'Fred Talk', the approach above, spotting blends first, sounding out the word and then reading.

As your child becomes fluent and confident, it is important that you talk to them about their reading and ask them to read for 15- 20 minutes per day. There will be a selection of questions posted on your child's classroom page to help you.

In future weeks we will receive funding to help those pupils who need further support. We will inform you of how this money will be spent and how it may affect your children.

Thank you for your support and the work you do with your children. I am sure that together we will be extremely successful in these difficult and unique times.

Other news

We welcome new members of staff to the school team - they are Mrs Reid who will support pupils in Footprints, Mr Benton who will support pupils in Surfers and we welcome back Miss Gearing who will work in Pebbles.

As we are not able to hold assemblies currently we are sending home postcards each week to celebrate childrens' achievements in school. It is hoped that every pupil will receive one during the year and it is something to be celebrated. After half term we will hold virtual whole school assemblies when we will award housepoints and Virtues awards.

Duncan Ratcliffe
Head Teacher

