

Sharks Autumn Term Newsletter
Growing and learning together with God

Dear Parents and Carers,

September 2021

It has been a pleasure to welcome a new class of Sharks back to school this term! We hope that everyone had a lovely, restful summer and that the children have returned refreshed and looking forward to an exciting year of growing and learning together! We have certainly been impressed with their positive learning attitudes so far.



We are glad to be able to relax some of our social distancing measures, such as now sharing break times with other classes, returning to whole school collective worship and organising classroom tables in groups. We are continuing to ensure that classrooms are well ventilated and are encouraging good hygiene with regular hand washing; children are still welcome to bring anti-bac hand gel into school to keep in their bag to support this.



Communications

We are also glad to welcome parents back onto the playground at the end of the school day; we look forward to getting to know you all over the next few weeks.

If you have individual concerns about your child or any other queries, please direct these to the office who will forward on your messages so that

communication remains open through email, phone conversations and virtual meetings on Teams.

Keep an eye on the weekly school newsletters to find out what we have been learning about each week; we will also be updating the Sharks Class page on the website a couple of times each term with news and photos of our learning journey.



Topic

Our topic this term is 'Evolve!' so in **Science** we will be completing units called *Survival of the Fittest* and *The Human Species* where we will learn about the evolution and adaptation of different species, before focusing on human ageing (including puberty) and human health. Many of our **English** lessons will also be themed around evolution and adaptation, including reading Kipling's

Just So Stories and Shakespeare's *All the World's a Stage*, as well as writing recounts and explanation texts. Studying plants and animals will inform our initial **Art** work, developing sketching skills, before we turn to textiles in the lead-up to Christmas.

In **RE** we will be learning about Christianity, considering God's character and the role of Jesus. Our **SCARF PHSE** will focus on *Rights and Responsibilities* and *My Relationships*; we will also have weekly **Circle Time** sessions to support the children in developing positive self-esteem and interactions. In **French** we will be learning about France - developing our knowledge of France's geography whilst building descriptive vocabulary and grammar. This year, Year 6 will receive brass lessons from Mr Probert on Tuesday mornings, while Year 5 will be taught **Music** by Sharks teaching staff, this term focusing on songs which express positive feelings, which we will use to develop music appreciation skills and to inspire our own improvisations.

PE

From 24th September, Sharks will be re-starting **swimming lessons** on **Friday** afternoons. Please could we remind you that all children need a swimming hat; these are available from the school office. We also have **PE** on **Wednesday** afternoons, where we will be developing Tag Rugby skills and then using counterbalances in Gymnastics. Please ensure that children have navy blue shorts, t-shirt, trainers and appropriate warm clothing for going outside, and that all items are clearly named. PE kits should be in school every day in case these sessions change; they will be sent home on a Friday so that the cloakrooms can be thoroughly cleaned.



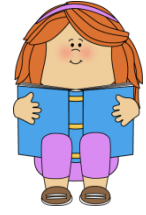
Water bottles and snacks

Children should remember to bring a bottle of water (not squash) into school to keep in the classroom every day; water bottles can be re-filled during the day. If children are bringing in snack for break time, please remember this should be healthy food like a piece of fruit.



Homework, Times Tables Rock Stars and Spelling Shed

Project homework will continue to be set whereby children choose which projects to complete from a variety of themes; these will be shared with the class and children will receive feedback. Details about our Evolve! project options will be sent out as an assignment on Teams, where supporting resources are also available.



All children have **Spelling Shed** and **Times Table Rock Stars** log-ins which they should be using regularly to keep practising key skills. On Tuesdays we will check that children have accessed Spelling Shed for **a minimum of three times a week**. Spelling practise sheets are available as an alternative if children do not have internet access at home.

Bronze, Silver and Gold Maths quizzes will also be available each week on **Quiz Shed** for children to practise the topics learnt in weekly Maths lessons.

Reading

Reading is not only an important skill to learn, but can be a great source of pleasure! All Sharks have reading books from the class book corner with them in the classroom and have opportunities to read throughout the school day.

Children should also be reading **daily at home** and recording what they have read in their reading record a minimum of **three times a week**. These will be checked on Fridays, with rewards for regular readers. We also have a **Fonetti** subscription which allows children to practise reading aloud and is another useful resource for supporting children with their reading at home.

We are so pleased to be back at school with our fantastic new class of Sharks and are looking forward to all the learning opportunities and challenges ahead this term; we hope you are too!

Mrs Montgomery - Class Teacher

Mrs Weaver and Mrs England - Sharks TAs

Mr Hart - teaching on Thursday afternoons