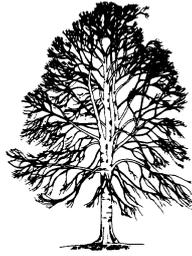


Bottisham Community Primary School



Headteacher: Rachael Johnston

5th September 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Autumn Term Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope that you had a wonderful summer break. We are relishing the start of the new school year and getting to know our new classes. We warmly welcome Mrs Cridland to the Year 3/4 team.

Home School Journals:

The children have received a new copy of the Home-School Journal for the Autumn term. This will contain information about term dates, PE days and your child's class timetable, as well as including a range of fun activities for your child to complete. The Home School Journal is a really useful tool for communication and we encourage you to use it as way to ask questions and share general information concerning your child. It is also a record of the reading that your child has been doing at home and as they become more independent, we encourage them to record this for themselves. The Home School Journals will be checked by your child's class teacher once a week and signed. If there is a message that you would like a quicker response to, then please ask your child to hand their journal to their class teacher first thing in the morning. Your child's class teacher will be happy to speak with you if there are more urgent or complex matters that you wish to discuss.

Curriculum:

Our topic for the Autumn term is "Party Like a Roman". Children will learn about the transition period between the Stone Age and the Roman civilization and about the Roman heritage in Britain. This topic will run through many of our subjects to provide a common theme and context throughout their learning.

To enrich the children's learning in this area, we have organised a "History Off the Page" day for the children, a fantastic chance for them to explore this time in history through many themed activities, arts and crafts. More information will follow in a separate letter in the next couple of weeks.

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Homework:

The children will be bringing home an exercise book, which will contain a homework menu. This consists in a selection of English, Maths and Reading based activities which the children must complete one per week. Their homework will need to be completed in their exercise book and returned to school on a Wednesday. Homework will then be marked and the books sent home again on a Friday. If you have any questions or feedback about the homework, please do speak to your child's class teacher or share them via the Home School Journal.

- **Spellings:**

Your child will also have ten words printed in the homework menu. We would like your child to practise those words in their homework book. Children who would like to challenge themselves can write sentences with the words they practice. Every Friday, we will test the words they practised. House points will be awarded to children who score 7 out of 10 and above as well as to children who show improvement in their scores over a period of time.

- **Reading**

As part of their homework, the children should read for 20 minutes every day. Their reading should be logged daily in their HSJ. This can be recorded by the children or by the parents. The children who complete their log daily will receive a house point at the end of the week.

- **Maths**

Following the success of last year, we will continue to include times tables practise as part of homework. Every Friday, we will introduce a new times tables topic, which will also be included in the homework menu. We will practise daily in class, but it is very important that the children build on this learning at home, by practising for 5 minutes a day. We will have a weekly times tables test. To give everyone a head start and build confidence, we will begin with times tables facts from 2, 5 and 10 times tables, facts which the children have come across in Year 2.

Maths and English guidance:

As the children progress through Key Stage Two, they will be learning new methods and strategies to help them become proficient in their learning. This is particularly the case in Maths where the children will be learning new written methods for solving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division operations. In order to support parents in their understanding of the methods that the children are learning, we would like to draw your attention to the English and Maths booklets that are available to parents on the school website. These can be downloaded in PDF format from the Curriculum area of our website in the English and Maths sections. These provide parents with information and advice on how to support their children. Please do speak to your child's class teacher if you would like any further information about particular methods.

Maths: <http://www.bottisham.cambs.sch.uk/website/mathematics/61205>

English: <http://www.bottisham.cambs.sch.uk/website/english/61204>

PE Kit:

Please note the PE days for your child's class for the Autumn term are as follows:

- Birch – Tuesday and Thursday

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- Cedar – Tuesday and Thursday
- Elm – Monday and Friday

Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit which should consist of a plain, white t-shirt and navy or black shorts and trainers; they can bring plain jogging trousers and jumper as it gets colder outside. This should be brought in a named, drawstring bag please. If for any reason your child is unable to take part in PE lessons we require a note of explanation.

Parental Help

We are always happy to welcome parent helpers into the classroom. Tasks could be reading with children or helping with displays, so if you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please speak to your child's teacher.

Indoor Shoes & clothing:

It is very important that all children's clothing in school is named (including shoes) and that they change into their indoor shoes when coming into the classroom. We will be checking on this regularly in order to keep the classroom carpets clean for the children to sit on.

Absences:

We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent please telephone the school office at the number below as soon as possible. Any medication that your child requires during the day should be given to the Office, for a First Aider, in the original container. Inhalers must be labelled and kept with individual children in the classrooms at all times.

Other things to remember:

We would like the children to bring their snacks, water bottles, Home School Journals and book bags (if they have them) into school each day.

We hope that your child has a fantastic Autumn term and we look forward to meeting you at Parents Evening.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McGrath, Mrs Ociepko, Mrs Walker and Miss Cridland

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