

# Bottisham Community Primary School



Headteacher: Rachael Johnston  
Deputy Headteachers: Christine Sheppard, Debbie Heijne

6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

## Year 3/4 Autumn Term Newsletter

We hope that you had a wonderful summer break, where did it go? We are enjoying the start of the new school year and getting to know our new classes. We warmly welcome Mrs Childs to the team and welcome back Mr Legge!

Dates coming up can be found on the Topic Web. Do check on our class pages on the school website for pictures of what the children get up to (they won't tell you after all!).

In the meantime, here are the key things you need to know for your child in Year 3/4...

### 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, your child's class timetable, as well as a range of 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.

**READING**

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 book an appointment 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 Shake, Rattle and Roll. We'll be studying elements of physical geography that will include Earthquakes and Volcanoes. Children will learn about tectonic plates and their movements, how earthquakes and volcanoes happen, and how these events affect the world, both thousands of years ago as well as in modern times. This topic will run through many of our subjects to provide a common theme and context throughout their learning.

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## Homework:

The children will be bringing home an exercise book, which will contain a homework sheet. This consists of a selection of English, Maths and Reading based activities which the children must complete each 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 on the homework sheet. We would like your child to practise those words in their homework book. 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 a short time every day. Their reading should be logged regularly in their HSJ. This can be recorded by the children or by parents. The children who complete their log daily will receive a house point at the end of the week. Your child will receive their first Accelerator Reader (AR) book in the next week. They will have an opportunity to take a quiz on the book on the computers in school. These will be changed by the children when they have finished them. Children are welcome to read other books from home.

- **Maths**

Every Friday, we will introduce a new times table, which will also be included on the homework sheet. 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. An opportunity to extend learning up to the 12 x table will be introduced in the next few weeks with our maths challenge cards.

## Maths and English guidance:

As the children progress through KS2, 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 information and advice on how to support your child.

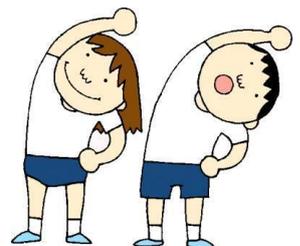
Maths: <http://www.bottisham.cambs.sch.uk/website/mathematics/61205>

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 & Cedar– Monday and Thursday
- Elm – Tuesday and Wednesday



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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 administration tasks, 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.

### **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, or 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 with you at Parents Evening.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Legge, Mrs Childs, Mrs Ociepko and Mrs Walker

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