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*Fleggburgh Church of England
Voluntary
Controlled Primary School*

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Ingrid Rounce



Head of School Mrs

4th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

WELCOME TO DIAMOND CLASS - OR WELCOME BACK FOR OTHERS!

At the beginning of the school year we thought it might be useful to let you know what life in Diamond Class will be like this year.

READING

This year we are focussing on reading throughout the whole school. Your child will be given a reading scheme book at the level appropriate for them, or a book from the library, for daily reading practice. Please can you hear your child read at least twice a week. On these nights, please can you sign and date their homework diary to say that you have either heard or seen them read. If your child is a confident free reader, it is not always essential that you hear them read. Reading should be for pleasure so 20 minutes in bed is as acceptable as 20 minutes sat with you, as is reading a magazine or newspaper. We will be launching a new reading challenge with the pupils this year with the target being to read 50 books in a year. Please encourage your child to achieve this and share as many books as you can with them.

HOMEWORK

Homework books will be given to pupils on a Tuesday. Pupils will then have the whole week to complete these. The homework books will then need to be handed in first thing on a Monday unless otherwise informed. These will be the same as last year as your child will have an English homework book and a Maths homework book with the whole year's homework in it. They only need to complete one 'workout' from each book each week. Please do not allow your child to complete more than this as we will only mark one piece each week.

Homework is based on concepts they need to know in their year group and pupils are expected to try all the questions. However, if they find the questions too difficult, it is fine for you to help them to answer them. We are happy for you to work with your child on any homework we set but please can you annotate where you have done so, so that we know what further work we need to do with them. We also expect every child to do their best and should the homework not be completed to a level we believe they are capable of, they will be asked to complete it again in school. There is a continued focus on presentation and handwriting again this year so homework is also expected to be completed to a high standard. English may be written in pen or pencil, but Maths needs to be completed in pencil. Thank you!

Weekly spellings will be given on a Friday (stuck into their green spelling books) and then tested the following Friday. Please could you help your child learn these as often as possible. There are two spaces in the book for your child to practice the words and we will expect this to be completed in the week.

PE

PE is on Wednesday and Thursday and for this term will be games skills and cross-country. Weather permitting, these lessons will take place outside on the playground or field so please ensure your child has appropriate PE kit. School PE kit consists of a yellow T-shirt, navy/black shorts, trainers with good grip (no black pumps) and a warm navy/black tracksuit for cold weather. A shower proof jacket may also be useful for those odd showers. Trainers must be a different pair to those that they wear to school as the field can become very muddy in winter.

CURRICULUM

We have a variety of topics for this term. In Geography, our topic will be comparing the UK to a European country: Italy, and in History – The Romans. In Science, we will be studying a chemistry unit: Properties and changes of materials. If you have any artefacts, books, music etc. at home that could help us with our studies, please do send them in. Also, you could encourage your child to look for any information on these topics (you can be as creative as you like), especially if you are a member of the library!

In English this term, we will be reading two Roald Dahl books; ‘Boy’ the autobiography of his life, and ‘Danny the Champion of the World’. We will be writing autobiographies and our own adventure story! We will also be focussing on a fiction unit based around our studies of the Romans - reading the book ‘Eagle of the ninth’ by Rosemary Sutcliff. We will be précising a chapter, writing additional chapters, exploring characters and it will culminate in writing a short story. English work will be linked to other topic lessons too, through recounts of trips and explanation texts linked to science.

In Maths we will begin the year with a week on place value then continue to concentrate on calculations and the application of these. We will also cover shape, measurement (including time), fractions and decimals. Please can you practise all times tables with your child as there is now an expectation that pupils know to 12 x 12 by the end of year 4. Year 4 will sit an online times table test set by the DFE at the end of the academic year and they will need to be able read and answer the question within 6 seconds. This means that they need instant recall of all the facts so please help them to practice them. We will of course continue to practise times tables in class too. We have purchased an online programme called ‘Doodle Times tables’ to support this and they can also access Doodle English, Maths and spelling. Details for how your child can access this, is attached to this letter.

HELP!

We always welcome help in the classroom. If you could spare some time each week to hear readers, please let us know.

Should you ever have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us. We are usually available before and after school. Hopefully with us all working together, we can have a fantastic term and ensure that your child, or children, gets the most out of Diamond Class life.

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid Rounce and Gemma Yassin
Diamond Class Teachers