

7th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

WELCOME TO DIAMOND CLASS - OR WELCOME BACK FOR OTHERS!

At the beginning of the school year I thought it might be useful to let you know what life in Diamond Class will be like this year. It will certainly be different for all of us but I'm sure together we can make it the best possible experience.

HOMEWORK

We will not be setting homework or spellings for the first two weeks so that the pupils have time to settle in to a new way of working in the classroom first. Details about homework will follow next week.

PE

PE is on Wednesday and Thursday and for this term will be games skills and cross-country. 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. As pupils are currently wearing trainers for school, there is no need to send a second pair for PE but we will obviously let you know if this changes.

CURRICULUM

For the first two weeks of term there will be a short topic – All About Me. Pupils will explore their thoughts and feelings about themselves and others and we will read Rosa Parks autobiography and Malala's autobiography too. Pupils will then write their own autobiography. We will paint or create our own self-portraits and make our own memory boxes in Design Technology.

After that, our topic for the rest of the first half term is Dinosaurs and Endangered Animals. The curriculum plan for the topic is attached explaining all that we will be learning. Please could you encourage your child to look for any information on these topics and you can be as creative as you like!

In English this term, we will be focussing on a fiction and nonfiction unit based around our studies of Endangered Animals - reading one of the Born Free books 'Journey to Freedom'. We will be making predictions, exploring characters and it will culminate in writing a short story. We will also draw on the text for our non-fiction writing where we will write a persuasive piece, trying to persuade the school to adopt an endangered animal. English work will be linked to other topic lessons too. Pupils will continue to be encouraged to read a range of own choice books and discuss their thoughts and ideas about these.

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. We will of course continue to practise times tables in class too.

Should you ever have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak to me. I am usually available before and after school for a telephone call. 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
Diamond Class Teacher