

5th September 2021

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. I'm sure together we can make it the best possible experience.

HOMEWORK

We will not be setting homework or spellings for the first week so that the pupils have time to settle first. The first set of homework will be sent home on Friday 10th September. Hopefully, this letter will explain how this will work.

Your child will be given a plastic wallet in which their homework books, reading book and spellings can travel between home and school.

Homework will be set on Friday and should be returned to school on the following Friday. The homework will be three books - an English, a Maths and a Times Tables 10 minute weekly workout. Each week, your child should complete one double page workout, starting with Autumn Term Workout 1. Please help ensure your child brings their folder in every Friday as they will only be marked on that day. I have attached a timetable of dates and which workout you should be completing to help.

Spellings will also be sent home on a Friday to be learned by the next Friday. The pupils will stick their spellings in their own book. They have space in the book to practice the spellings in the week and a house point will be awarded to those that do this.

Pupils will choose a reading book for in class and we will also send one home that can stay at home until they have finished reading it. It can then be returned to school to swap for a new book.

Please do help your child with homework, especially initially to set up good working routines and to make sure homework is back in school on time. Hopefully together, we can ensure that homework is a positive learning experience.

PE

PE is on Wednesday and Thursday and for this term will be games skills and cross-country. These lessons will initially 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 is also needed for those odd showers.

CURRICULUM

For the first two weeks of term we will be exploring how best we all learn and techniques that can help. These are the questions we use in class so please use them at home too!

Is this similar to a previous task?

What do I want to achieve?

What should I do first?

Am I on the right track?

What could I do differently?

What could I have done better?

Who can I ask for help?

What worked well?

What could I have done better?
Can I apply this to other situations?
Why did I enjoy that?
What am I learning?
How will I know I am doing well?
What will I do if I get stuck or find it hard?
What are my next steps?

We will also be exploring our school values of respect, responsibility, courage, trust, perseverance and compassion, and of course getting to know each other!

After that, our topic for the rest of the term will be Vikings and then Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes. 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 fictional writing from the book 'Kiki Kallira breaks a Kingdom'. The 'Friends of Fleggburgh School' have purchased each pupil a copy which has been signed by the author and we thank them for doing this – it will really help with our studies! We will be making predictions, exploring characters and settings, and it will culminate in writing a short story. We will also draw on a dragon text for our non-fiction writing, producing a report on 'dragons' and we will be writing a biography about a famous English person of their own choice. 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 and they will be tested on this at the end of the year. We will of course continue to practise times tables in class too.

Work for the week will also continue to be posted on Google classroom.

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