

Friday 14th January 2011

Dear Parents / Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you all had an enjoyable festive season and that the weather did not spoil too many of your plans.

In Language we will be continuing our novel study based around *The Suitcase Kid* by Jacqueline Wilson. When that study is finished the children will have the opportunity to vote for a novel of their choice that they would like to study. The novel studies will help support the development of all areas in language - reading, writing, talking and listening as well as having cross curricular links.

Our Core Reading will continue within the classroom and everyone also has an Accelerated Reading book which they take between home and school. Please support your child with all aspects of their reading by asking questions about their book and sharing parts or even the entire story with them.

Maths Setting will continue Monday - Thursday and your child will receive their Maths Homework Challenge from their Setting teacher.

Class homework will be given out on a Monday and expected in by the Friday unless otherwise stated - some Homework Challenges this term may need more than 1 week to complete but full instructions will accompany the challenges when they are issued. If you do find you need any extra advice or support please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Our topics this term include our whole school topic on Emotional Literacy's Reaching Goals and a class study on The Wauchope Memorial at the old school building. If you have any books, pictures etc related to our topic and would be willing to share them with the school, please send them in with your child.

Our Science topic of Reproduction will now take place this term and you will receive a separate invite to view the materials we will be using before we start the topic in class.

The class will be studying The Solar System with Miss Robinson on a Wednesday. Again, if you have any books, pictures etc related to this topic and would be willing to share them with the school, please send them in with your child.

The class will use the ICT suite with Mrs Bell on a Thursday.

Please ensure your child has a full PE kit in school every day so we can all make the most use of our gym time. We have a weekly Hall time as well as our blocks of work with the school PE Specialist. We will be working with the Drama Specialist, Mrs Burdon, on a Thursday during the blocks when we don't have PE.

We will continue to use the shared areas outside the classrooms for Health and Wellbeing, Art, Music, Drama and other activities such as Circle Time.

Your child will have a 'talking partner' to work with, at times, in the class. These partners will be changed on a regular basis so please ask your child who their current 'talking partner' is. All pupils also have the opportunity to regularly work in a 'trio'. The roles in a 'trio' are Reporter, Recorder and Checker - ask your child which roles they have taken on. Much of our assessment will be done formatively and the children will be heavily involved in peer and self assessment. Children will have opportunities to experience Active Learning across the curriculum and will be able to share what they have learned and how they have learned it with you. Once again, ask your child about this - explaining things to you helps them to learn.

We are looking forward to having the opportunity to share our Personal Learning Plan successes with you at a later date in the term. It means a lot to the children (and me!) when you come in to see what we are working on.

As A Curriculum for Excellence continues to be developed throughout the school, all pupils should be able to tell you about the Four Capacities - Responsible Citizens, Confident Individual, Successful Learners and Effective Contributors. Do you know what they mean? Have you asked your child? Go on - you will be surprised at how much they know!

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education or school life with me, please do not hesitate to contact the school office where an appointment can be made for us to discuss any issues.

Thank you for your support - it is much appreciated!

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Goodall