



9th September 2022

Dear Family,

A warm welcome back to you all! It has been lovely to see all of the children this week.

Teaching Caterpillar class this year will be Ms Freya McLaughlin on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and Mrs Rachael Farley on Wednesday morning, Thursday and Friday. Providing support for the children will be Mrs Cheryl Winter, Mrs Caren Hughes, Miss Harriet Hughes and Mrs Sarah Mayes.

Safety

Although many covid restrictions have now been lifted, we are following government guidance and still want to keep pupils, staff and families as safe as possible.

We will have regular hand washing routines on entry to school and before lunch. Hand sanitiser is available as children need it.

The classrooms will continue to be well ventilated with open windows throughout lessons. For this reason, please check that your child remembers their jumper or cardigan every day.

PE

Caterpillar class will have PE on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**. Children will need to come to school in their PE kit on those days.

Please could you ensure that they also bring their green school jumper, even if it looks bright and sunny. They might be perfectly warm whilst exercising but will spend much of the day sitting in an airy classroom, so may well feel chilly at other times!

Curriculum

Our school is now in its second year of our exciting new curriculum, involving termly projects. For the Autumn term, the theme for the whole school is 'Journeys', with each class focusing on a key question. In Caterpillars, the question we will be investigating is **Do all journeys begin with a destination?**

Our project work will incorporate History, Geography, RE, Art and DT strands, with pupils:

- improving their map skills
- investigating how the Anglo Saxons arrived and settled in Britain
- finding out the importance of pilgrimage to Muslims and other religious groups
- developing their portrait and figure drawing skills
- creating picnics for a journey

In English, we will be studying the picture book **Leon and the Place Between** and the novel **Pugs of the Frozen North**, both of which deal with journeys to unfamiliar places.

Maths will be taught separately and will focus on key skills, such as place value, number facts and operations.

In Science, we will be learning about the topics Space and Electricity.

Reading books

Your child will be able to choose from a selection of books at various levels, and unless they are a free reader, they will also continue to read colour band books at their own pace.

In addition to the banded books, every child will borrow a 'reading for pleasure' book of their own choosing. These will be provided in the classroom and library, and can be swapped in any registration time as soon as the next book is needed.

Some children prefer to read their own books, so they may use these instead.

Equipment

Your child will need these items each day:

- a full water bottle

- a packed lunch in a hard, wipe clean lunchbox (unless they are having a school dinner)
- their reading book
- a jumper or cardigan
- OPTIONAL: a small pencil case that can fit easily in their trays!

Homework

Homework will begin to be set during the next couple of weeks and will be communicated to you via the online platform Seesaw. We will send home login details and passwords so you can access your child's Seesaw account. In Caterpillar class, weekly homework will consist of:

- An activity in their **Maths workbook** which will be coming home shortly
- An **English activity** which will be set through Seesaw. Please bear in mind that we won't necessarily set activities in both Maths and English each week: we will choose activities that best support the children's learning
- Weekly **spellings** based on the current spelling pattern the children are working on
- Learning facts and vocabulary from the project's termly **Knowledge Organiser**
- And most importantly, **reading** as much as possible, and ideally every day

All homework will be set on Wednesdays and is due in the following Monday.

Please could you support your child in checking they have brought their completed homework to school each Monday. If homework is late, it's not always possible for us to mark it in time.

If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact us via the school office.

Best wishes,

Freya McLaughlin and Rachael Farley