



6th January 2023

Dear Family,

Happy New Year to all of our pupils and their families! It has been lovely to see all of the children back together this week.

Safety

Just a reminder that we will still be following hand hygiene routines on arrival at school and at food times, to help us all keep as healthy as possible. 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.

Curriculum

For the Spring term, the theme for the whole school is 'Our Wonderful World', with each class focusing on a key question. In Caterpillars, the question we will be investigating is **Can human wonders compare to the wonders of nature?**

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

- improving their geographical knowledge of Europe
- discovering what life was like in Ancient Greece
- reading and exploring some famous Greek myths, starting with our class book **The Adventures of Odysseus**
- studying the artist Henri Rousseau and trying to emulate the way he painted the natural world
- using different media to create Ancient Greek artefacts
- learning about our responsibilities as 'stewards' to look after our world

In Science, we will be learning about the topics **Light** and **States of Matter**.

Maths will be taught separately and will focus on key skills, such as multiplication and division, fractions and percentages.

The Caterpillars will continue to learn Spanish. This term they will be learning the vocabulary of 'Food and Drink' and 'Around Town'.

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

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.

Please continue to write a quick note in the children's reading records each time you hear them read at home.

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 and reading record
- a jumper or cardigan
- OPTIONAL: a small pencil case that can fit easily in their trays. (These have got a little unwieldy since some exciting Christmas additions! Please encourage your child to only bring essential, practical items to school.)

Homework

Homework is given to the children on Wednesdays and is communicated to you via the online platform Seesaw. In Caterpillar class, weekly homework consists of:

- An activity in their **Maths workbook**
- **SPAG activities** set for Year 5 pupils in their new books
- Weekly **spellings** based on the current spelling pattern the children are working on
- Learning facts and vocabulary from the project's termly **Knowledge Organiser**
- English activities will sometimes be set through Seesaw
- And most importantly, **reading** as much as possible, and ideally every day

All homework will be set on Wednesdays and is due on 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