



9th September 2023

Dear Family,

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

Teaching Caterpillar class this year will be Ms Freya McLaughlin on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and Miss Victoria Braddock on Thursday and Friday.

PE

Caterpillar class will have PE on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. Children will need to come to school in their PE kit on those days: a plain white t-shirt, dark shorts or tracksuit trousers, and trainers.

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!

Safety

Although covid restrictions are not in place, we still want to keep pupils, staff and families as safe as possible.

We will have regular hand washing or sanitising routines on entry to school and before/after lunch. 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

Our school's curriculum involves termly projects. For the Autumn term, the theme for the whole school is 'Belonging', with each class focusing on a key question. In Caterpillars, the question we will be investigating is **How does our area shape our lives?**

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

- learning about nutrition and healthy choices, based on food found in our local area
- investigating the history and impact of religion in our area and asking the questions: How do religious groups contribute to society? Where do Christian religious beliefs come from?
- developing a variety of skills (drawing, painting, making) in a celebration of the ways food connects us, as families, cultures, and communities
- developing their historical vocabulary and their understanding of chronology. The focus period will be Anglo Saxons and Scot settlements.
- developing directional skills through using an eight-point compass, grid references as well as reading symbols and keys on OS maps. Developing fieldwork skills in the local area

In English, we will be studying the picture book **In Our Hands** and then the novel **The Boy at the Back of the Class**, both of which look at what it means to belong to a community and how we can change our communities for the better.

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

Science will be taught in separate year groups, all focused on human biology. Year 4 will be learning about the topics Teeth and Digestion, whilst Year 5 will be learning about the Life Cycle of Humans.

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 can be swapped in any registration time as soon as the next book is needed, and include texts such as magazines, graphic novels (comics) and children's newspapers.

Some free readers (who have completed the coloured book bands up to Lime level) prefer to read their own books, so they may use these instead.

When children select their own books, we encourage them to use the 'Five finger reading rule'. This involves them reading a page of their chosen book and counting on their fingers how many words they were unable to read.

0-1 errors show it may be a little too easy for them

2-4 errors show that may be the appropriate level for them

5+ errors within a page show that this may be too challenging for them at the moment

Equipment

Your child will need these items each day:

- a full water bottle
- a packed lunch (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 we will be in touch shortly to explain what this will involve.

Until then, please continue to read with your child regularly, and ideally every day. You may decide to do a mixture of listening to your child read, reading to them, shared reading (reading in unison), taking turns to read sentences or pages, or chatting about books.

All of these approaches are fantastic at developing the children's vocabulary and understanding of what they have read and listened to.

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

Best wishes,

Freya McLaughlin and Victoria Braddock