



5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Family,

Happy New Year to you all! It has been lovely to see the children return after our Christmas break.

Just some reminders for the Spring term:

### **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 named 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's curriculum involves termly projects. For the Spring term, the theme for the whole school is 'Creation', with each class focusing on a key question. In Caterpillars, the question we will be investigating is **Are Creations Final?**

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

- examining how clothes and material items are created and fastened, then practising textiles skills to design and create their own fabric book sleeve
- thinking about the differing ideas about the creation of our world and asking: Creation and Science- Conflicting or Complimentary?
- exploring how we can use colour, line and shape to create patterns, including repeating patterns.
- investigating how communities were formed in Anglo-Saxon times
- looking at how settlements are founded and creating and using maps

In English, we will be studying the picture book **How the Stars Came to Be** and finding out about alternative creation stories. Later in the term, we will share the novel **Noah Barleywater Runs Away**, which tells the tale of a boy's troubled flight from his home and his new friendship with a mysterious toymaker.

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. Year 4 will be learning about the topics Electricity and States of Matter, whilst Year 5 will be learning about Earth and Space.

### **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

Just a gentle reminder that no pencil cases or stationery are required from home.

### **Homework**

Our homework menu for the term will be sent home as a paper copy shortly, and will also be added to Seesaw for your reference. Children can choose the tasks that they would like to complete and we will have a homework sharing session at the end of term.

For Maths, pupils have individual Numberkits targets, which are stuck into their homework books. Please support your child in practising their target and sign the target slip when they have completed this. We will then test them at school on a Wednesday and give them their next target once they are ready.

In addition to this, the children all have logins to TT Rockstars, which is an excellent way to build their confidence with their times table knowledge. Even five minutes several times a week can be invaluable!

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