



20th April 2022

Dear Family,

We hope you have had a brilliant Easter holiday. It has been lovely to see the children come back to school ready to learn.

Safety

As always, we are following government guidance on Covid-19 and want to keep pupils, staff and families as safe as possible.

We 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, even though it is now starting to warm up.

PE

Caterpillar class will continue to have PE on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** and will need to come to school in their PE kit on those days. Year 5 Caterpillars have now also started swimming on a Friday. Mrs Woods will be teaching tennis to both year 4s and 5s on a Friday afternoon.

Curriculum

Our new curriculum is now fully underway...

For the Summer term, the theme for the whole school is 'Over and Under', with each class focusing on a key question. In Caterpillars, the question we will be investigating this half term is **What secrets does the Earth hold?**

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

- learning about how physical geographical changes, due to factors like earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis
- finding out about changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age

- investigating the philosophical question: Why is there so much diversity of belief within Christianity?

- creating seascapes in art

In Science, the year 4s will be learning about Living Things, Habitats and Rocks. The year 5s will be learning about Living Things and their Habitats in more detail. They will be investigating how to classify living things in further detail, as well as learning about life cycles and reproduction.

In English, we will be basing out learning around the book *The Bluest of Blues: Anna Atkins and The First Book of Photography* by Fiona Robinson. This is a picture book that introduces the life of this nineteenth century botanist who found new ways to present her findings.

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

Reading books

Your child will be able to choose from a selection of books at various levels, provided in the classroom.

Some children prefer to read their own books, so they may use these instead. We will provide colour banded books for children who need them.

Books are now able to travel between school and home on a daily basis. Please update your child's reading record each time you hear them read.

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

Homework

In Caterpillar class, your child's weekly homework will consist of:

- An activity in their Maths or SPAG (Spelling, punctuation and grammar) **workbooks** sent home on a Wednesday. Please bear in mind that we won't necessarily set activities in both books each week: we will choose activities that best support the children's learning

- Weekly **spellings** based on the current spelling pattern the children have learnt
- **Maths games** through the website Active Learn, which can be accessed as needed
- Learning facts and vocabulary from the project's **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.

Warm weather

As the weather warms up, children should bring a sun hat to school each day. Please also ensure that your child is wearing sun cream when they arrive.

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

Best wishes,

Freya McLaughlin and Rachael Farley