

Elm Class Newsletter

September 2019

Dear Parents and children,

Welcome back to school! I hope you have all had a fabulous and relaxing Summer break as it is about to get quite busy in Elm Class! We have an exciting and fun-packed half term planned but we also have a lot of hard work to do too!

Please see below a summary of the curriculum for this term:

Topics

Literacy – This term we will be looking at stories with familiar settings, non-fiction writing and poems. Spelling tests will be given on a Thursday morning and new spellings will be given to the children at this time. Your child will have a spelling book which needs to be brought into school **every day** to ensure that they can practise their spellings regularly. Their tests will be completed in the back of these books, so you will be able to keep a check on their progress. Please do not worry if you feel that your child's spelling appears initially too easy, they are learning spelling patterns through Sounds-Write, which they should then be able to transfer to other words. You may also find that we will re-visit certain spelling patterns. They will also be learning the year 2 common exception words through a process called 'Tracks' and the children will be completing this 3 times a week during school time.

Library day will be on a Monday, therefore, could you please make sure library books come back every week - even if your child wishes to keep it.

Numeracy – Children will be learning place value of numbers up to 100 and the value of each digit in a 2 digit number. We will be exploring and investigating sequences and patterns of numbers too! We will also learn about 2d shapes and their properties.

Science – Our topic is Everyday Materials and we will look at popular materials, their properties and how they are used in everyday life.

Computing - The children will be learning how to communicate information using text. We will also look at and discuss how to use the computer safely.

History – This term we will be looking at Famous people including Alexander Graham Bell, Guy Fawkes, Grace Darling, Florence Nightingale and Isambard Kingdom Brunel and their achievements and place in history.

Geography – We will be learning all about the UK and how it is made up of 4 different countries. We will then focus on Australia and compare Australia to the UK.

Art – The topic for Art this term is linked to our geography and the children will be looking at Aboriginal art and sculptures.

Music – The children will be investigating the length and duration of notes with Mrs. Moore.

RE – In RE the children will be learning about inspirational people and how they affect how we live our lives.

PE – **PE** for this half of the term will be on **Monday** and **Wednesday** in the afternoon. The children will need their full PE kit, including plimsolls or trainers on these days. The children are welcome to bring in tracksuit trousers (black) to keep them warm if we go outside. Please ensure that **all** kit is named, as this is very helpful when children mislay it.

PHSE – This term the children will be starting on a new journey along with the whole school learning about growth mindset. We will be learning how to 'grow their minds' and find strategies to help them with understanding what it means to make mistakes and how making mistakes can help us to focus and learn. We will also be working through our school values of this term which are 'Respect' and 'Tolerance'.

Homework

Homework is aimed at helping children become independent learners and they will be encouraged and expected to do little bits quite often. Homework will consist of Doodle maths challenges, spellings, reading and mini topic based projects.

Parent Help

If you have any time available to help in school, or could offer support for one of our topics please let us know. You may be able to hear children read for an afternoon, you may have particular skills to offer e.g. cookery or art or you may have knowledge/experience in an area that will support our work. Any help is greatly appreciated. Please come and discuss this with me at the end of the day.

Medication

If your child has any medication in school, which may be stored in my classroom, please come to see me so that we can check the date of expiry

Everything Else!

As I am, as yet, unfamiliar with parents of Elm Class children, could I ask you to come to the door to collect your child at the end of the day, so that I know who the children are going home with.

If you have a regular arrangement with someone who picks up your child please let me know so that I can make a note for future reference. If your child is going home with someone else for tea etc, please write a note in the reading record, but please ask your child to tell me that a note is in there (not all children are heard to read everyday). If you write messages in the reading record please ask the children to show me, just in case I do not look at this book on that particular day. At the end of the day the children will leave the classroom via the class double doors that lead onto the playground.

The few who may choose to have a packed lunch should place their lunch boxes on one of the top two shelves on the bookcase in the corridor leading to Elm and Ash class. However, we would like to encourage the children to take up the option of a FREE school dinner.

As the children move up the school we aim to develop their independence and organisational skills. With this in mind I would ask that you encourage the children to carry their own lunch boxes and bags, and that they enter the classroom on their own. Register is taken promptly at 9.00am and lessons will start at 9.05.

In addition to computing lessons, the children will have an early morning computing activity to complete, therefore it is essential that your child is in school promptly so that they do not miss their computer time. Ideally the children need to be settled at their desks by 9.00am, ready to work.

Finally, I am looking forward to a very happy and exciting year with the children. If you have any questions or concerns that you wish to raise with me please do not hesitate to come and see me, preferably at the end of the day when there is less congestion and more time to have a proper discussion.

**Kind regards,
Mrs Bartram-Hill**