



# Bishop William Ward C of E (VA) Primary School

*Happy, respectful, lifelong learners*

Headteacher: Mr Toby Bull

19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to welcome both you and your children to Year 3 at Bishop William Ward. We look forward to working with you all to make this academic year a success. Miss East will take the class Monday-Wednesday and Mrs Whitney Thursday and Friday. Mrs Whymark is the main teaching assistant working with us. Mrs Wheatstone covers the class every other Monday afternoon to allow for teacher release time. Below is an outline of routines and homework expectations. Please read carefully and see one of us if you have any queries.

## Early Mornings

- The classroom door is open from 8.40am and the children are expected to be in school for registration by 8.50am.
- It is expected in Year 3 that the children can take responsibility for putting away their own book bags, lunchboxes, etc. and be left to enter the classroom independently; please say your goodbyes in the playground and that the children walk along the path to the classroom on their own.
- There will always be an early morning activity for the children to complete before registration.

## Homework

- **Reading:** Becoming a successful reader and taking enjoyment in reading relies heavily on partnership between home and school. While we will work with the children on their comprehension and understanding of what they are reading and continue to teach them the skills of reading independently, it remains very important that the children get an opportunity to practise these skills daily at home (roughly ten minutes each day). **We would expect your child to read to an adult at home at least 3 times a week, with a parent/ guardian signature and date in their reading record.** When reading with or to your child, encourage them to summarise the story plot, guess what happens next or tell you their thoughts or feelings about the different characters. This will encourage them to read in order to understand the overall text and not just decode the words.

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The children have home/school reading books which are graded by colour stickers. We will hear them read these books occasionally, although our main priority is with 'guided reading' which is where we work on comprehension skills, reading from a shared text. If you find your child is reading their books with ease then please let us know so that we can assess whether they are ready to move on to the next colour sticker, likewise if your child has not taken the opportunity to change their book when required then please let us know. Children should be reading a wide range of texts (which also helps them with their writing) so please encourage them to take every opportunity to practise, whether that is reading a book, magazine, comic or even shopping lists and food labels! If you are unsure of which books to suggest reading with your child, the Book Trust website has a wealth of suggestions and recommended reads: [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk).

- **Spellings:** The children will be given spellings to practise each week. These will vary depending on which spelling pattern we are working on and the group the children are working within. There are a variety of ways of learning spellings, from copy writing, to creating silly rhymes for really tricky words i.e 'because'- *big elephants can add up so easily*, or finding words within words i.e 'what' 'w' walking with a 'hat'. Please make sure that the children hand their spellings books in on a Wednesday along with the rest of their homework. They will then be tested on these at the end of the week. Five minutes practice a day is more beneficial than cramming the day before. This can be done verbally or on bits of paper. It is important that the children have had some opportunity to write each word as they will be expected to write them for the test.
- **Maths/English:** The children will receive either a piece of Maths or English homework each week. They are expected to spend roughly twenty minutes completing the activity. The activities will vary and will often provide an opportunity for the children to practise a skill we have learned that week. If the homework requires specific resources, such as playing cards or dice, that you don't have available at home, then please let us know and we will try to lend you what is needed. Homework goes out on a Friday and should be handed in by the following Wednesday so that it can be marked. If your child is finding the homework particularly tricky, they should let us know on the Monday so that we can make time to talk them through it before it is due in.
- **Times tables:** At this stage in their schooling, children are expected to be learning their times tables. We will be assessing where the children are currently over the next few weeks, before sending home times tables activities for them to practice. Short,

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sharp bursts of a few minutes practice a day is the best way to learn and can be worked around the walk or drive to school, bath time, etc. It is important that children learn the whole calculation, e.g.  $2 \times 6 = 12$  and not just counting up in 2s, so that they avoid having to start counting up (e.g. 2, 4, 6, 8) each time they need to answer a question. **It is expected that by the end of Year 3, children should know their 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 times tables and division equivalents off by heart.**

## PE

- This half term, PE is timetabled for Wednesdays and Thursdays. However, sometimes the days may vary so their kit needs to be in school every day.
- Please ensure that your child has a complete PE kit (including outdoor footwear) with each item individually and clearly named.
- For health and safety reasons, please ensure that earrings are removed for PE days or, if your child does attend school wearing them on a PE day, that they can remove them independently and have a pot or envelope to put them in to keep them safe.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to arrange a time to come and see us.

Kind Regards,

Shelley Whitney and Camilla East

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