



Bishop William Ward C of E (VA) Primary School

Happy, respectful, lifelong learners

Headteacher: Mr Toby Bull

18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to welcome you all back and into Year 3. The children have settled remarkably well and are adapting brilliantly to the 'new normal.' We are all very happy to be back at school after such a challenging time over the last few months!

Below is an outline of routines and homework expectations.

Early Mornings

- 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. Most of them are already doing this very well.
- 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). 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.
The children have reading books which are graded by numbers or colour stickers. If you find your child is reading their books with ease then please let us know in their reading record book so that we can assess whether they are ready to move on to the next level. Children should be reading a wide range of texts (which also helps them with their writing) so please encourage them to read books (fiction and non-fiction), magazines, comics or even shopping lists and food labels!
- **Spellings:** The children will be given spellings to learn and use each week. These will vary depending on which spelling pattern we are working on and the group the children are working within. Spelling will be managed on a Friday by Mrs Ivey. Tests will also be on Fridays. Five minutes a day is more beneficial than cramming the day before. This can be done verbally or on bits of paper. The children will be asked to write the words in 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 taught that week. Homework will be given out on a Thursday and it should be handed in by the following Wednesday. 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.

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- **Times tables:** At this stage in their schooling, children are expected to be learning their times tables. By the end of Year 2 the children should have mastered their 2, 5 and 10 times tables and in Year 3 the expectation is that they also master their 3, 4 and 8 times tables. There will be a times table test at the end of Year 4 when pupils are expected to know all of their multiplication and division facts up to the 12 times 12. Short, sharp bursts of a few minutes practice a day is the best way to learn. It is important that children learn the whole calculation, e.g. $2 \times 6 = 12$ or $12 \div 6 = 2$ and don't just 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 important to establish a good routine with homework. Encourage your child to 'teach' you the skill they are practising whenever possible - if they can explain it clearly then it shows they have a deep understanding of their learning.

PE

- PE is timetabled for Mondays and Tuesdays in the first half term but 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 ideally removed for PE days or if your child does attend school wearing them, that they can remove them independently and have a pot or envelope to keep them safe.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to arrange a time to come and see one of us. It has been a pleasure to meet your children and we're looking forward to working together to make this a brilliant year for everyone.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Godwin and Mrs Ivey

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