

## Severn Class Newsletter Autumn 2017

Welcome back! I hope you have had a lovely, relaxing summer break and are ready to work hard as part of Severn Class. We are looking forward to an exciting year...

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Butcher to the Severn Class teaching team and she will be teaching on Wednesdays. Mr Holley will teach on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Mrs Steward teaching whole class French, as well as topic to Year 5's when Mrs Daniels teaches topic to Years 3 and 4 on Thursday and Friday afternoons. Mrs Walker will assist the class on Mondays and Mrs Steward will be with the class for the rest of the week. Mrs Blackbrough will continue to teach GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spellings) to Year 4's every day for 20 minutes.

### English

There will be a focus on handwriting and presentation this year as well as improving writing with a range of genres studied. These will link to the objectives for both Years 4 and 5 as well as encourage greater depth in children's writing. Mrs Butcher will teach an aspect of writing every Wednesday in order to produce a piece of work in a range of genres including a report, a recount, poetry, narrative writing-fiction and non-fiction.

### Reading:

Reading will take place every day in school with children continuing to choose books from the library and be tested on then when completed as part of the continuing star reading programme. Children are encouraged to keep a reading record of books read both at home and in school and hand it in each day for checking. Two house points will be awarded to every child who has managed to read at least 4 out of 5 nights at home or 5 out of the 7 nights including once at the weekend. Please feel free to comment on your child's reading progress in their reading record and do initial or sign any reading completed either independently or with an adult at home. This record can also be used as a home/school book in order to communicate any messages to/from school. In school, we will be encouraging children to read a range of different texts by different authors in order to extend their vocabulary and range of writing structures that they will then be able to put into their own writing. Guided reading in groups will take place once per week for every child. As noted above GPS will be taught every day for 20 minutes and will link into the English lessons.

### Spellings

Five different spellings per week from the 100 Year 3 and 4 (for Year 4's) and the 100 Year 5 and 6 (for Year 5's) spelling lists will be practiced in school every morning as part of a handwriting start of the day activity. Children will copy the words, joining letters where appropriate and put them into a sentence. Lists of 18 weekly spellings to practice at home and be tested on every Friday (of a particular pattern) will be sent out at the start of every half term and will be available on the school website. Children are encouraged to use the look, say, cover, write, check method at home each week.

### Science

Year 5's will be taught science on Tuesday afternoons by Mr Holley beginning with 'Getting sorted' followed by 'Everyday materials'. At the same time Year 4's will investigate 'Good Vibrations' then 'Switched on' with Mr Brown.

### Topic

On Thursday afternoons in a history based topic Year 5's will be answering the question 'Why do we remember the Maya?' before undertaking a geography topic looking at 'Where does all our stuff come from?' At the same time Year 4's with Mrs Daniels will start by looking at 'Where on earth are we?' a geography based topic, followed by 'How much did the Ancient Egyptians achieve?' a history themed topic.

### Computing

E-safety then coding will be taught by each week and the children will complete research work as part of their topic and science lessons too. E-safety lessons will be used to teach the children how to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly and will re-examine ways to report concerns and inappropriate behaviour.

### P.E

Children will begin by learning rugby skills followed by hockey and dance. Swimming begins in September on Monday afternoons for both Year 4s and 5s for all of the autumn term.

### R.E

Mrs Butcher will explore the key question: 'Why are festivals important to religious communities?' The children will begin by thinking about what is worth celebrating and remembering, both within religious communities and in their own lives. They will then compare the way festivals are celebrated within different religions.

### P.S.H.E

Every week the class will look at an aspect of personal, social and health education through different topics starting with emotional well-being and personal safety.

**French**

Mrs Steward will be teaching all about schools in France and the weather. The children will also be preparing for the school languages day on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Music**

Year 5 children will learn to play the cornet throughout the year, with Year 4's learning to play the fife with Mrs Daniels. The year will culminate with a summer term ensemble with children from all year groups.

**Homework**

Following on from work completed in class, Maths homework will be set on a Friday, to be handed in on the following Tuesday. Regular practice of times tables is also important in order to increase confidence for problem solving and these will be tested weekly. There will be a weekly focus on learning a particular spelling pattern with words given to be tested on a Friday. A spelling book will be used in school to record and monitor the spellings. A house point will be awarded to those who succeed in spelling all their words correctly.

**Equipment:**

The children should have a named P.E kit in school at all times, including a plain white t-shirt, navy shorts and pumps. This kit should not be taken home during the half term unless necessary as children need their kit in school at all times. Pencil cases are not necessary in school as children will be provided with all the equipment they need. Named water bottles should be sent into school for daily use and will be sent home at the end of each day.

**Walking home from school (Year 5 children):**

If you are happy to give permission for your child to walk home from school then please send a signed permission note into school as soon as possible so that we know where your child is if we do not hand them over to a family member at the end of the school day.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any queries, concerns or information to pass on.

**The Severn Class Team:**

**Mr Holley** (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays)

**Mrs Butcher** (Wednesdays)

**Mrs Steward** (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays)

**Mrs Walker** (Monday mornings)