



10th September 2021

Dear Family,

A warm welcome back to you all! It has been lovely to see all of the children this week.

Teaching Caterpillar class this year will be Ms Freya McLaughlin on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and Mrs Rachael Farley on Thursday and Friday, supported by Mrs Debbie Newson.

Safety

Although many covid restrictions have now been lifted, we are following government guidance and still want to keep pupils, staff and families as safe as possible.

We will 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.

For the first term at least, the school will continue to provide pencil cases for KS2 children, containing all that they need. Please do not send children in with their own pencil cases for the moment- we will keep you updated if this changes after Christmas.

PE

Caterpillar class will have PE on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**. Children will need to come to school in their PE kit on those days.

Please could you ensure that they also wear a tracksuit top or hoodie, even if it looks bright and sunny. They might be perfectly warm whilst exercising but will spend much of the day sitting in an airy classroom, so may well feel chilly at other times!

Curriculum

Our school has developed an exciting new curriculum, involving termly projects. For the Autumn term, the theme for the whole school is 'Belonging', with each class focusing on a key question. In Caterpillars, the question we will be investigating is **How does our area shape our lives?**

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

- improving their map skills
- investigating how the Romans impacted the local area
- finding out how religious groups contribute to society
- learning about Ancient Roman art, creating mosaics and pottery
- and even developing their cooking skills with local produce!

In English, we will be studying the beautiful novel 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane' by Kate DiCamillo, which deals with the themes of friendship, identity and belonging.

Maths will be taught separately and will focus on key skills, such as place value, number facts and operations.

Reading books

Your child will be able to choose from a selection of books at various levels, as usual. These will be provided in the classroom, but library visits will also begin again in the next couple of weeks.

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.

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
- a jumper or cardigan

Homework

Homework will begin to be set during the next couple of weeks. In Caterpillar class, your child's weekly homework will consist of:

- An activity in their Maths or SPAG (Spelling, punctuation and grammar) **workbooks**, which will be coming home shortly. 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

Your child's homework task and spellings will be shared via Seesaw, but children are encouraged to bring their workbooks into school to be marked.

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.

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

Best wishes,

Freya McLaughlin and Rachael Farley