



10th January 2022

Dear Family,

A Happy New Year to you all! It has been lovely to see all of the children return to school last week.

Safety

As always, we are following government guidance on Covid-19 and want to keep pupils, staff and families as safe as possible.

We 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. During this chilly part of the year, they may also want to wear a t-shirt or base layer under their uniforms.

PE

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

Curriculum

Since the start of the academic year, we have developed an exciting new curriculum involving termly projects. For the Spring term, the theme for the whole school is 'Creation', with each class focusing on a key question. In Caterpillars, the question we will be investigating is **Are Creations Final?**

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

- finding out how civilisations were created and examining what life was like in Ancient Egyptian times
- investigating the philosophical questions: What is truth? and What is sacrifice?

- creating Egyptian themed art and designing jewellery
- looking at creation in nature by studying plants and the different parts of a flowering plant, pollination, fertilisation and life cycles in Year 4. Year 5s will be learning about how fossils are formed and researching how they give us information about the past. They will be finding out about how animals and plants adapt to their surroundings and how that adaptation might lead to evolution.

In English, we will be sharing the stunning picture book 'How the stars came to be' by Poonam Mistry, which is a folk tale about the origins of the stars.

Maths will be taught separately and will focus on key skills, such as multiplication and division, fractions and decimals.

Reading books

Your child will be able to choose from a selection of books at various levels, provided in the classroom.

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. Please update your child's reading record each time you hear them read.

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 and reading record
- a jumper/ cardigan and warm under layers as needed!

Homework

In Caterpillar class, your child's weekly homework will consist of:

- An activity in their Maths or SPAG (Spelling, punctuation and grammar) **workbooks** sent home on a Wednesday. 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

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