

BAMPTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

I am hoping this letter finds you all well and rested after a very pleasant Easter break. The Spring term was a wonderfully successful and happy term for the pupils in Stag class and, alongside being very proud of them, I am very much looking forward to a further term of hard work, progress and enjoyment. All around the country, year 6 pupils will be preparing for SATs in very different ways. At Bampton, we have offered our pupils the opportunity to join our 'cuppa club' which is our very relaxed and laid back preparation for these statutory assessments. These have been hugely successful so far and they will continue for the next four weeks – never underestimate the motivating powers of a mystery biscuit! I, along with the majority of my colleagues, look forward to the conclusion of SATs week so we can all enjoy the benefits of the summer weather. For your information, SATs week is the week commencing Monday, 8th May. I ask you all to please speak with me if your child has any concerns about these assessments so I can offer reassurance and experience to limit any unnecessary anxiety. There are, of course, far more important events occurring this term; our year 5 pupils are completing their 'Bikeability' course at the beginning of the term and I look forward to hearing all about it. We also have sports day, trips, secondary school transition, Exmoor challenge and end of year performances. Our main topic theme this term is 'Rivers and Coasts.' This topic allows the children to understand many aspects of science, geography and history.

*We have a very busy and **important** term ahead of us!*

This letter provides you with some information that you will find useful for the term/year ahead.

Routines: Please ensure that your child checks that they have the following each day:

- Reading book /reading diary to be completed on a daily basis.
- Healthy snack- a piece of fruit.
- P.E. kit-for indoor and outdoor PE (Monday) and swimming kit (Friday).

Could you please also check that your child's name is clearly visible in their PE kit.

Home Learning (Homework) - As in previous years, home learning is an important part of your child's education. The home learning tasks set are planned to reinforce the work being covered in class. These will be set on a Friday and the expectation is for the homework to be handed in on the following Wednesday.

Spellings –A list of spellings will be given approximately every two to three weeks. I will then test these spellings at random times over that period. Research has suggested that learning words for a one off test is an ineffective strategy and so, with this in mind, we will be regularly learning, practising and testing these words so that they become completely internalised by your child. Children should be able to apply their spellings to their own written work and not just in an isolated test. For their spelling home learning tasks, they should learn their words, using a 'LOOK, COVER, WRITE and CHECK' method. As an extension to this, the children are then to put each of the words into a 'WOW' sentence to show they understand the meaning. ***Some children have not learnt the words at home...These children MUST learn the focus words in order to achieve in the SPAG test during SATs week.***

Times Tables/KIRFS - Children should learn their table facts as often as possible, through recall, counting up and back in that multiple and, when confident, learning all corresponding division facts. This will be tested every week. **KIRFS** (Key Instant Recall Facts) are an initiative by the school with an aim to raise standards in maths. The children will be expected to know these KIRFS by the end of each term.

Reading – Your child will continue to bring home a library book every day to share with you. In Stag Class, we recommend a minimum of fifteen minutes reading per day, ensuring adults sign off the daily reading in the Reading Diaries. I will check and sign the Reading Diaries weekly. Although most children in Year 5 and Year 6 can read independently it is still very beneficial for them to read to an adult regularly to discuss their understanding of a text. I think the happiest moments that I have experienced as a teacher have been the sharing of stories and authors. I have built up a deep knowledge of wonderfully engaging and thought provoking texts and I would be delighted to share these with your child. If you are ever struggling for a new

book please come and talk to me and I can point you in the right direction or, where possible, lend you one of my own copies.

Snack - If your child brings a break time snack to school, this should be a piece of fruit. Can I remind you that no chocolate or crisps are allowed for their break-time snack.

Money - We request that all money brought in to school be placed in an envelope with your child's name, the reason for payment and the amount enclosed on the front. This helps the office to process money accurately. Thank you.

It has always been of my belief that an effective working relationship between school, pupil and family is crucial to maximise progress. You are all, therefore, always welcome to pop in to the class to view your child's work or indeed request ideas of how you could further support your child. I believe in an 'open door' policy and would hope that you would all soon feel very welcome to approach me with any concerns or questions.

I look forward to a productive and fun-filled term of learning!

Many thanks,

Andrew Gill

Year 5/ 6 teacher (Stag Class)