



# BAMPTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

---

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed the half term break and that the children are returning to school feeling ready for the second half of this term! I was really impressed by how hard the children worked during the first half of term and look forward to seeing them aim high once again this half term. We really enjoyed our trip to Tiverton Museum at the start of October and I would like to once again thank those parents who came with us on the day!

This half term will also be a busy one, with our Nativity in the last week of term and preparations for this over the coming weeks! You will receive further information about the Nativity in the run up to the performance.

We will be continuing our main curriculum theme of 'Conflict and Harmony' this term. We will start this term by looking at bonfire night and writing senses poems linked to this. We will also be thinking about remembrance. We will also be learning a fairytale which we will be adapting to write our own stories. In geography we will be focusing on developing our knowledge of the four countries in the United Kingdom and in art we will be creating nature sculptures. We will also observe the changes associated with the seasons of autumn and winter. The curriculum map for this half term can be found on our class page on the school website.

Please could your child bring a waterproof coat into school every day.

**We are looking for some parent volunteers to support us in Squirrel Class to read with the children in class during the afternoons. Please could you get in contact with me if you are able to volunteer.**

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

## **Routines:**

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

- Book bag with:
  - Reading diary to be completed on a daily basis.
  - Home learning to be completed on a weekly basis.
- P.E. kit for indoor and outdoor PE and swimming kit, which needs to be in all week as PE/swimming times may vary.
- Forest school clothes – a top and joggers that you don't mind getting dirty with wellies.

During the mornings, the children will be expected to put their book bag in the box, put their reading diaries in the basket, change their books and put their sports kit and clothes on their peg. There will be activities on the table or on the board for the children to complete during the morning activity. You are more than welcome to sit with your child and join in with their activity.

Please remember that swimming and PE kits should be in separate drawstring bags which are clearly labelled. This makes it easier for the children to hang their belongings up on their peg. Could you also please check that your child's name is clearly visible in their PE kit and school uniform with a permanent marker. This will allow the children to easily identify their belongings in school.

**Reading –** Your child will continue to bring home a reading book every day to share with you. In Squirrel Class, we recommend a minimum of fifteen minutes reading per day, ensuring adults sign off the daily reading in the Reading Diaries with the name of the book, its level and any comments about their reading and understanding. I will check the Reading Diaries daily. It is very beneficial for your child to read to an adult regularly which will build their knowledge of different words and help them gain confidence with their reading. Please ensure that you discuss their understanding of the text.

**Phonics**- A sheet will go home each week for your child to complete. There will be tricky words, key letters or sounds which will have joins on for them to practise. Starting this half term, I will also be sending home sets of tricky word flashcards for your children to practise at home, which they will be tested on each week.

**Home School Learning Diary (Homework)** – In addition to reading and phonics, a home learning grid was sent out at the start of the term for children to complete as an option to further their understanding in our topic. This is also available on the school website. These activities can be done with parents. Please bring in any pieces of work so that we can share them with the class.

**Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFS)** - Children should learn their number facts as often as possible, through recall, counting up and back. The KIRFS for this half term will remain the same as last half term, as it is important for children to have a secure knowledge of these number bond facts, as they will form the basis of all of the maths that they will do. The children will be tested every week. The children will also be expected to know their KIRFS by the end of each term. The KIRFS can be found on the school website.

**Snack** - Your child will be provided with a healthy snack daily, during break time.

**Money** - We request that all money brought into school be placed in an envelope with your child's name, the reason for payment, and the amount enclosed on the front. This allows the office to identify who the payment is from and what it is for.

**Letters or Reply Slips** - Any letters or reply slips, which need to be returned, can be put in your child's book bag. The children are encouraged to check them each morning and give things in after the register.

**Toys**- I am more than happy for children to bring in things from home to share with the class that are related to our current topic, as it is always fantastic to hear children talking about their object so enthusiastically to the rest of the class. We will also have show and tell on a Friday afternoon and on this day children may bring objects that are not necessarily linked to our topic if they wish to do so.

I am sure that the remainder of the Autumn Term will be an enjoyable one for all the children, staff, parents and carers associated with Squirrel class. I believe in an 'open door policy'. This means that I am more than happy for parents and carers to come into the class to take a look at the fabulous work that the children produce in their books. With this in mind, if you feel that you would like to help in Squirrel class at any time over the year, perhaps to read with some children or with upcoming trips, please come and speak to me as we are always looking out for helpful parents and carers. Please do not hesitate to come and see me or contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

Many thanks,

*Vicky Lancelles*

Year 1 (Squirrel Class)

[v.lancelles@alumnismat.org](mailto:v.lancelles@alumnismat.org)