



Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all enjoyed your half-term break after settling into the new school year. I have been impressed with the way the children are starting to work together and the general learning atmosphere in the classroom is excellent.

Our curricular theme for this half term continues to be 'Harmony and Conflict' and we explore the theme through different subjects. Children are actively encouraged to bring items linked to our curricular theme in from home, to share with the class, and we have had some amazing stories and memorabilia from family members already.

## **Routines:**

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

- Reading book and completed reading diary.
- Healthy snack- e.g. a piece of fruit.
- P.E. kit-for indoor and outdoor PE and swimming kit.

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

## **PE/Swimming**

We plan to be swimming every Wednesday afternoon at Tiverton. Could you please also check that your child's name is clearly visible in their school uniform, as this does help lost items being returned to their owners. Devon County Council require that jewellery, including earrings and studs, be removed for P.E. and related activities for health and safety reasons.

## **Home Learning**

Home learning is an important part of your child's education. The home learning set will be planned to reinforce the work being covered in class. Each home learning activity is set on a Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday, please feel free to support your child with this. Your child will also be given a home learning sheet with the choices for this half term which is about our topic. If there is any part of the home learning that your child does not understand, they can always bring it back into school and I will be happy to go through it with them.

## **Spellings**

A list of spellings may be given out at various times. These spellings will be tested at random points over the half term. Research has suggested that learning words for a one-off test is an ineffective strategy so, with this in mind, we will be regularly learning, practising and testing these words so that they become completely internalised by the 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 and as an extension to this the children should

then be able to put each of the words into a 'WOW' sentence to show they understand the meaning.

### **Times Tables**

Please can the children learn their table facts regularly, through recall and when confident, learning the corresponding division facts. It is important that they practice these tables frequently as they need to be able to recall these facts within seconds for the new Government testing being introduced. Also, times tables knowledge is beneficial to many aspects of maths.

### **Daily Reading**

Your child will continue to bring home a reading and a library book every day to share with you. I would like to take this opportunity to stress how important it is that you read with your child for 10-15 minutes each day, sign and please make any necessary comments in the Reading Diary. I aim to check the Diaries on a daily basis, so I can keep up to date with Fox Class' progress.

Although many children in Year 3 and Year 4 can read independently, it is still very beneficial for them to read to an adult regularly to discuss their understanding of a text. Children will need to demonstrate a critical understanding of a text and consider why an author has made particular choices in their writing.

### **Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs)**

There is an initiative by the school with an aim to raise standards in maths. These tasks will be closely linked to and therefore support their school Maths learning. The children will be expected to know these KIRFs by the end of each term and will be tested on them.

### **Final Reminders**

The children have been given a new school water bottle this year which they are able to take home, to be cleaned please. Just a quick note to say that they are NOT to be put in the dishwasher. These water bottles are for use in the classroom, and on trips, and must contain water only. The children who have packed lunch are still allowed to bring in their own drinks bottle for lunchtimes in the hall.

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.

I, like other staff in the school, operate an 'open door' policy. This means that I am always happy for parents and carers to come into class to see what we do, how the children learn and see the wonderful variety of work that we produce.

I am always happy for parents to contact me. Should you need to contact me for any reason, please do so via either the school office telephone number, your child's reading diary, or call in before school to arrange a meeting.

Many thanks,

*Rachel Rudd*