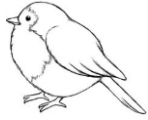


HANDCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL
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10th January 2019



Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

We hope you had a wonderful break!



As usual, we are writing to give you a bit more information about the coming term and some 'beginning of year' reminders. We have a very exciting term ahead and two fantastic topics that we are sure the children will love: 'Frozen Planet' in the first half and 'Up, Up and Away' in the second half. You can find more details about what the children will be learning this half term on the curriculum map attached.

Important Reminders

Please ensure that coats, jumpers, book bags (including reading diaries and, where applicable, Spellodrome diaries) and water bottles come into school **every** morning and that all personal possessions are **clearly labelled** with your child's name. We ask children to hand in their homework folder every Monday morning, their yellow reading record every Wednesday morning and to change their reading book first thing in the morning, as needed. If you could remind your child to do this on their way into school that would be very helpful. Please remember to check your child's book bag every day for letters or other important information.

Homework – Like last term, we expect children to complete weekly maths and phonics homework. Please help your child to practise the spellings set by their phonics teacher every week. Please also help your child complete *and then mark* their maths homework sheet. Finally, please remember that you can use Spellodrome to support your child's learning at home.

Reading - We can't emphasise enough how beneficial it is for your child to read regularly at home; it helps them to progress so much more quickly. Please continue to try to hear your child read each school night and record a comment in their yellow reading diary. Please use the reading question ideas that were sent home last term to guide your discussion with your child. They may also write the date, the name of their book and a brief comment themselves! Children will continue to be rewarded with a reading certificate if they have 5 diary entries per week for 6 weeks.

If you would like some additional support to help your child with home learning, please do come and speak to us and we will be very happy to help.

Reading Helpers - We would love for parents to come into school to listen to children read. If you enjoy reading and sharing stories with children, then you have all the skills needed! We will provide you with some 'Top Tips' to help you support the children. Our parent reading slots will be from 2.30pm on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Please come and see your child's class teacher if you would like to help.

The Beginning and End of the School Day – To ensure the safety of all children, they will be dismissed one at a time when their teacher calls them. Although it may take a few minutes, it ensures that we see that parents have taken charge of their children before



leaving the school grounds. Please let your child's teacher know in the morning if someone else is picking up your child that afternoon. If another adult regularly picks them up, you may wish to *always* give them permission to collect your child in your absence. Please speak to the office or your child's teacher if this is the case. We will not let children go with another adult unless we have been told in advance.

We ask that you say 'hello' and 'goodbye' to your child on the playground and not on the ramp / steps to your child's classroom as this could cause an obstruction. Please also ensure that pre-school children remain with you on the playground at all times.

Trips and Special Events in Spring 2019

Without parent contributions we cannot take the children on school trips or organise special in-school events. We are, however, very mindful of the present economic climate and know that the cost of such experiences can be expensive. We have therefore included information about contributions requested this term.

To support our learning in history, we will be having a 'Shackleton Day' on Friday 8th February; we will be visited by professional actors from the Yvonne Arnaud theatre. We will 'be' the crew on Ernest Shackleton's expedition to the Antarctic and, therefore, will ask the children to come to school dressed as polar explorers. We will send a reminder and some costume ideas nearer the time. This exciting, immersion experience will also help us with writing in role of Ernest Shackleton himself.

The cost of this event will be £7.50 per child. We would appreciate if this could be paid online, using School Money, by Friday 1st February.



In the second half term, we will have two special events. We will be visited by a 'science dome' planetarium to support our learning about space as part of our topic, 'Up, Up and Away'.

In celebration of World Book Day we will be having a book fair and a visit from M. P. Roberston, the author and illustrator of many wonderful, much-loved books that we use to support learning in school. His titles include 'The Egg', 'The Dragon Snatcher', 'The Sandcastle' and 'Ice Trap'.

The combined cost of the two events in the second half term will be £12. There will also be an opportunity to purchase books at the reading events, although there is no obligation to do so. A letter about these events will be sent nearer the time and no payment is expected now.

Please may we remind you that all events have to be funded from voluntary parental contributions. If this proves to be difficult, you are invited to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. The school reserves the right to cancel any visits or events where funds do not match the cost.

Thank you for your ongoing support and co-operation. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Davies and Miss Palmer