

Dear Robin Class parents,

Welcome back to Hawkesbury after what must've been the wettest summer holiday I've experienced. The children have settled into their new class and are getting to grips with the new routines, expectations and work load. There have been many changes within our school over the summer and it is nice to have Year 1 and 2 back together. This letter is to follow up our meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September and confirm expectations and routines for this term.

Robin class is quite different this year than last. In previous years, Year 1 and 2 have been separated during a morning and then joined together for non-core subjects. This year we are together for all lessons with morning time set aside for the core lessons of literacy and mathematics with time set aside for guided reading and phonics. The afternoons are filled with our creative non-core subjects. On **Wednesday morning** Mrs Tilsley will take the class and teach RE and Science whilst I have PPA time. **Wednesday afternoon** is our indoor PE time so please ensure your child has correct PE kit in school for Wednesday. I would like to use some time on **Friday** to explore the wonderful outdoor environment we have at Hawkesbury. During this time we will do some den building, story-telling, adventurous activities, team building and activities to develop independence and self-belief. These outdoor activities will be taking place unless we have serious weather conditions so please make sure your child has a full change of clothes, waterproofs if possible and a set of welly boots in school.

### Homework

Last year we introduced a new homework jigsaw system which worked effectively and resulted in many high quality pieces of homework produced. A homework jigsaw has 8 different homework ideas for children to choose between during a term. The children will be expected to complete one piece each week and hand it to myself on **Tuesday**. I will mark and give feedback on the homework and return it to the children on **Thursday**. The children only need complete one piece of homework per week.

### Spellings

Spellings lists are sent home at the beginning of each term after a baseline spelling test. They are set in line with the national curriculum expectations and linked to the spelling rules children learn in their phonics lessons. Each list also includes several 'tricky' words that do not follow a spelling rule. On each list I try to detail the week the children will be learning each rule so that the learning can be reinforced at home. At the end of the term the children sit a second spelling test to monitor learning progress.

### Time 4 Reading

Time 4 Reading is a reading scheme we have used for two years and is gaining recognition and greater participation throughout the school. It is expected that children read 5 times a week. This is recorded on a chart with children awarded dojos, prizes, stickers and finally a certificate for reading a set amount of times. The reading target this term is 30 times for a certificate. Reading books are expected in class every day and are changed when the children hand their books in. As children progress through our reading bands they are taught to change their own reading books giving them a choice over what they read. The programme is in school to promote a love of reading. Therefore if children do not want to read the book provided by school but have books at home they would like to read, this is still a valued reading experience.

### Hawkesbury Monopoly

Hawkesbury Monopoly is a progressive set of mental maths targets that the children work on throughout the school. Children sit an informal test every Thursday related to their target. This is either a written or oral mental maths test of 10 questions. If they achieve a confident 9/10 without hesitation they move on to the next target and receive a certificate.

### Archie the Elephant

Archie is the class Teddy who loves "adventures". Archie is sent home every weekend with a different child to have an adventure. I would ask that you record what you do with Archie on your weekend with photos, if possible, and some text. You do not need to take Archie everywhere you go but the children enjoy the experience of having him visit.

### Key days of the week

- ❖ Tuesday - Homework due
- ❖ Wednesday - Mrs Tilsley (Morning until 10:55)
- ❖ Wednesday - PE
- ❖ Thursday - Homework set/returned
- ❖ Friday - Hawkesbury Monopoly testing
- ❖ Friday - Outdoor activities

If there is anything I have not covered or you are still unsure of anything please find me on the playground before or after school, or we can arrange a meeting if this is not convenient.

Many thanks for your support,

Mr A Bryant