**Eagles Class 2019/20 - Information for Parents**

Welcome / Welcome back to Class 3! Mrs Beear, Mrs Farmer and I are looking forward to an exciting year with many new experiences for the children.

Year 5 and 6 Curriculum - Autumn term

In **English** we start with reading, writing and performing poetry, followed by work around the novel ‘Cogheart’ by Peter Bunzl. **Maths** units this half term will include place value and addition & subtraction. After the half term holiday we will cover multiplication & division, statistics and the measuring of perimeter, area and volume.

Our first topic is a **geography** one on natural disasters. Children will look at maps and atlases to think about climate zones and the causes and impact of extreme weather, as well as studying earthquakes and volcanoes. After half term we will move onto life cycles and the classification of living things. After Christmas we will start our **history** topic on the Maya civilisation of Central America. More information about topics for the rest of the year will be on the Class 3 page of the school website soon.

In **computing**  this term we will be learning about e-safety. In **Art** we will use our sketch books to practise drawing techniques. Additional Art and DT will be themed around what we are learning in topic lessons. In **RE** (with Mrs Muller), the children will be learning about Christanisty and the idea of a loving and holy God.

**PSHE** (personal, social, health and emotional) this term will be covered in the ‘Activ8’ course, which runs for 8 weeks from Thursday 26th September.

Homework

Homework will be handed out on Fridays, to be handed back in on Wednesdays. This gives me time to mark and set the next one. If homework is handed in late it may not be marked that week but I will endeavour to mark it in the next cycle. The homework tasks for the first half term will be reading based. After this, there will be a mixture of topic, English and maths. Spellings will be given out every Friday and tested the following Friday.

Reading

There is a taught reading session once a week, where we cover reading comprehension skills and answer questions on a text or the current class novel. Children read quietly every day after lunch. I usually read from the class novel every day, with further opportunities for questioning, comprehension and vocabulary. Work in English lessons is based around high quality texts and reading objectives from the national curriculum are integrated into English lessons. Children will also have the opportunity to read one to one with an adult.

Children are expected to read regularly at home. Children have been given a reading record book. **This should be handed in on Wednesdays** (along with homework book) to be checked. The record book can be filled in by parents or the children themselves. If children are logging their own reading please can **parents sign it once a week** (e.g. every Tuesday) to confirm that what has been read that week is accurate.

Although recently expanded, our library is quite small, so a trip to Dereham Library, the Forum or the Norfolk Children’s Book centre may widen reading choices. We are happy to recommend books in school and there are many good websites for suggestions, such as the Book Trust’s 100 best books for children.

PE

Our PE days are Wednesday and Thursday. In the Autumn term, swimming on Wednesdays counts as one of the two sessions per week. In the other session we will alternate between ‘Real PE’ (a scheme that involves core skills) and games. Children should have their PE kit in school all week, in case of timetable changes, and take it home to be washed at weekends and holidays. They will need suitable shoes for running, and warmer clothes once the weather gets cold.

SATs and Assessment

Year 5 children will complete a termly reading and maths test to check ability against age expected levels, to show progress and to inform planning according to gaps in knowledge. Year 6 children will do practice SATs tests and take the real ones in May. We try not to overdo SATs preparation, as we do not wish for children to feel stressed by the tests. There will be a greater focus on SATS in the spring term, but the best way for children to prepare is by paying attention in lessons and trying their best in school generally.

Timetable

A timetable has been sent home with this letter. The timetable is subject to change when one-off events, special days and trips occur, but I hope this gives you a rough idea of how the day is structured.

Website

The school website has recently been improved and we will endeavour to put as much useful information as possible on there as the year progresses. Please check it every now and then for updates.

Contact

Please do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any questions or concerns about your child. If it is a small/quick matter I am available on the playground at the end of the day. If you need more time or privacy, please make an appointment to see me through the school office.

Thank you,

**Mr Sam Moore, Mrs Julia Beear & Mrs Hannah Farmer**