

Welcome back to HBP : Summer 2016

Welcome back! We hope you have had a restful Easter break and are ready for an exciting and hardworking summer term. Despite such a short spring term, the children achieved much and I am looking forward to seeing even more progress this term.

Growth Mindset and the Learning Pit

We are continuing to focus on making your children more independent learners. There are displays all around the school about not giving up and persevering even when learning can seem initially difficult. Do ask your children about the learning pit! We are encouraging children to respond to our marking, giving them time to make corrections in Maths and redraft and improve aspects of their writing using the purple pens. We are also encouraging children to set their own level of challenge in Maths by often allowing them to choose which activity to start on, based on how well they have understood the concept.

Curriculum at a glance

Topics: Local study-Penn Street. Country Week: Australia-please do send in any artefacts, photos, information you have etc...		
Literacy	Persuasion Fiction writing based around the short animated film, The Piano. Two spelling sessions a week Two guided reading sessions <i>Grammar focus-modal verbs, use of commas to mark clauses.</i>	
Mathematics	Written methods for division; fractions. Applying knowledge to word problems Times tables will be tested regularly	
Science	Y4 Animals including humans	Y5 Forces, lifecycles
RE	Y4 Special places	Y5 Pilgrimages
ICT	Y4 E Safety, databases	Y5 Coding, Powerpoint
Music	Drumming	
Art	Wire Sculptures inspired by the work of Alexander Calder	
PE	Athletics, cricket, rounders	

This is a fun packed term, full of visits and events:

Y4 Forest School every Friday

Monday 25th April: Spring Wonderland Day

Week beginning 9th May: KS2 testing

Monday 16th May: KS2 Kidzania trip

Week beginning 23rd May: Australia country week.

Monday 6th June: KS2 Penn House visit

More key dates are on weekly school newsletter.

Homework Timetable

Subject	Day set	Day due in	Time
Literacy	Wed	Mon	35 mins
Numeracy	Wed	Mon	35 mins. Also keep revising times tables
Spelling	Mon	Mon	Practise 3x each week (15 mins each time) Session 1= writing the words in a sentence. Choice of learning methods for sessions 2 and 3. This can include Spellodrome activities.
Reading	Mon	Mon	Read aloud 3x each week

Each child now has a login for Mathletics and will be using some of the programmes as part of their Maths and Spelling homework this term (Spellodrome can be accessed via Mathletics with same login). There are also lots of extra games on the programmes that children can choose to use to improve their skills and even compete against other children. Do encourage your child to explore both sites as well as using them for homework.

How you can best support with homework:

- Encourage your child to take responsibility for completing homework.
- Hear your child read and discuss their reading with them. (Ideas for questions were handed out at Meet the Teacher-please ask if you would like another copy.)
- Keep testing your child on their times tables.
- Ask your child to check in their Maths book for examples of similar work.
- Help your child think of some ideas to write about and jot down some notes.
- Encourage them to proofread their writing (often easier if spoken out loud) to correct any errors and make improvements.

Celebrating achievements

We enjoy hearing about children's achievements outside school. Please record any extra-curricular achievements in your child's homework diary. As always, I look forward to celebrating talents and awarding certificates in assembly on Tuesdays.

Tests and assessments

Throughout the term, the children will be tested on their times tables. If they do not score highly enough, they may be asked to practise their times tables at lunchtimes. In order to reach the expected level at the end of Year 6 in either 2017 or 2018, your child will need to pass a times tables test set by the government. So, now is the time to really nail those times tables!

We will be holding Maths and reading tests in May and assessing your child's independent writing. Please do make sure your child has early nights around this time so that they can perform their best. Also, encourage them to bring in water and a healthy snack to give them extra energy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns. You are very welcome to come and see me on the playground before/after school or jot down a note in the homework diary. Thank you for all your support. Mrs Bakermault and I look forward to working in partnership with you again this term.

Mrs Payne (HBP Classteacher and Deputy Headteacher)