



Welcome to Sapphires

Welcome back to another school year. We hope that you have had a lovely summer holiday and are looking forward to a new academic year. In this letter you will find important and useful information about the topics and skills we will be learning this term. Please read it carefully and keep it as a reference for the rest of the term. In Sapphires we will be helping to develop the children's growth mindset, and encouraging greater independence, aiming to build on and develop the skills acquired in Year 1/2. We hope to continue to form strong links between home and school, and are always happy to discuss any concerns with you. Please feel free to pop in and make an appointment in order to discuss any concerns, to look at classroom displays or allow your child to share and discuss some of their work with you.

DAILY ROUTINE

The children will come in from the playground as from at 8.35am, ready for a prompt start at 8.45am. The children will start the day with maths, which is followed by phonics, guided reading, and then literacy after break. In the afternoon we teach the foundation subjects which include science, history, geography, ICT, PE, PSHE, DT and Art. School finishes at 3.15pm when we will lead the children into the playground. Could you please wait on the front playground unless you also have children in Diamonds class, thank you. Please try to make sure that your child knows how they are going home, and if you are going to be late collecting your child please contact the school as soon as possible. The children are to wait in the playground until they are collected, unless we have had confirmation by you that they are allowed out of the school grounds.

THE CURRICULUM

TOPICS

Our topic this term is 'Ahoy There!', a topic focussing initially on Pirates, and then moving on next half term to studying the significant historical story of the *Titanic*. This topic is predominantly History, Geography and Science, but other curriculum areas will be linked to this particular theme. At the beginning of the topic the children will travel back in time to the Golden Age of Piracy. We will study both fictional and historical pirates, exploring truth vs fiction to discover historical facts. The children will learn about the way of life during this time, and make comparisons across time periods, and learn about life on board ship and the different jobs on a pirate ship. We will explore Materials and their properties in Science, linking it to our Pirates theme, and in Geography we will be learning maps skills, such as reading maps, compass directions, making a key, and coordinates. Music lessons will focus of a series of lessons linked to the story of *Treasure Island* and the children will learn several styles of songs. We will also be learning some pirate songs and Sea Shanties! Our theme in RE this half term is 'Authority', in the context of Christianity. ICT classes are taught weekly on Tuesday afternoons by Mr Brown.

LITERACY

Literacy will be taught following the Curriculum and where possible linked to the topic. This half term the children will be appreciating and writing Pirate Poems with rhymes or a pattern, making information booklets on ship life, writing job applications for piracy roles and a fantasy Pirate story.

Reading

We teach the skills of reading during literacy, in group guided reading, whilst reading with individuals and in other curriculum areas. Daily practice is needed to improve these skills and we cannot over-emphasise the importance of regular reading with your child at home. It is part of their homework, and improves not only their fluency, but also widens their vocabulary and helps them to understand the cadences of the written word. It also allows them to access the rest of the curriculum. It is suggested that home reading should take place at least four times a week for about 10-20 minutes and independent readers also benefit from shared reading at home as they can discuss characters, themes and language in depth. It would be especially helpful if you could encourage your child to read over the weekend as well, as reading records are checked on a Tuesday. We endeavour to listen to all children read their reading book once a week but please don't panic if this doesn't always happen. Your child is heard at least twice a week during guided group reading, which takes place every day between 9.50 and 10.10am. We encourage early readers to read a book twice (for decoding and fluency), so books will be changed on Tuesday and Friday.

Reading Rewards

To encourage children to read regularly we operate a reading reward scheme in our class. Every time your child reads 15 books (or 15 x 30 pages for children reading chapter books) they will receive a certificate and a prize from Mrs Brown. In our classroom we have a 'Reading Rocketeers' display, where we record the number of book certificates your child has read. Please note that library books and other independent reading count towards Book Points and we ask you therefore to record the title, number of pages and initial their achievement in your child's Reading Diary.

Spelling

Spelling in Sapphires Class is taught initially through continuing the Phonics program and will take place every day between 10.10 and 10.30am. During this time children will be working as year groups learning different rules, strategies and common exception words. They will be given 10 new words to learn every Friday and will then be tested the following Friday. Please note these words are practised every day at school, but it is also imperative that your child is also supported at home, as it is part of the children's daily homework to practise these spellings. Practise strategies are included in the front of their Home Spellings book, which should be brought into School every Friday.

NUMERACY

Numeracy will be taught following the Curriculum and linked to our topic work wherever possible. We will be revisiting, consolidating and extending concepts previously learnt. These include: place value, counting and properties of numbers, reasoning about numbers, mental calculation strategies for addition and subtraction, understanding addition and subtraction, statistics, measures including problems, properties of shape and reasoning about shapes.

Mental Maths, Times Tables and Number Bonds

In Sapphires we work very hard to build the children's mathematical fluency skills, so every week your child will be tested as follows:

Monday and Friday – Times tables

Wednesday – Mental Maths

Thursday – Number bonds

For Times Tables and Number Bonds, the children get a 'spot' if they achieve 50 or more correct answers in 3 minutes – three 'spots' will move them up to the next level; if they get full marks (70/70) they move up automatically. We will send home these tests so you can monitor their progress, and when they move up, we will send a new sheet home so you can copy them and help your child to practise. **Playing games on TT Rockstars at least 4 x a week is now part**

of their homework. We have also included times table charts in the children's reading diaries – regular chanting of these, and quick-fire mixed-up questions will vastly improve their recall skills – they will be given new times tables once they have passed the multiplication and the division level of each table. We also recommend regular practise of Number Bonds (through chanting and games such as 'Hit the Button' on the internet) as well as work on Numbots to maintain number skills.

SCIENCE

This term our science topics will directly relate to our topic. Before half term we will be looking at Materials and investigating their properties. After half term we will investigate Magnets.

FRENCH

Year 3 children will be taught French once a week, learning greetings, classroom instructions, numbers, colours and working up to some basic conversational phrases.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We will have two P.E. sessions every week; one on a Tuesday afternoon and the other every other Friday afternoon with JC Sports. Please ensure that the children wear appropriate P.E. kits to school on these days (and make sure that PE jumpers are named). P.E. lessons are usually taught in the village hall or outside so please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing for cold days. On the days when P.E. is taught, please tie long hair back and remove earrings. If your child is unable to participate in a P.E. lesson, please let the office know in writing.

HOMEWORK

Your child will not be set any formal written homework. They will be required to read, practise spellings and play Numbots or TTRockstars, all at least 4x a week. This can be recorded in reading diaries.

DON'T HESITATE TO ASK!

If you wish to speak to us about any concerns or queries that you may have, please make an appointment to see us. We look forward to a new term with your child and making their time at Buriton Primary School as enjoyable as possible. And PLEASE make sure jumpers are named!!!!

Thank you,

Miss Burrough and Mrs Rose

IMPORTANT DATES (letters with more details will follow closer to the dates)

Wednesday 18th September 3:15pm: Class Meeting for all parents.

Tuesday 22nd / Thursday 24th October: Parents' Evenings

We will also have a Pirate's Day towards the end of this half term and a trip to Sea City Museum near the end of November – details for both closer to the dates.