



# 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 encouraging greater independence, aiming to build on and develop the skills acquired in Year 1. 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 at 8.35am, ready for a prompt start at 8.45am. The children will start the day with maths, which is followed by guided reading, then phonics and literacy. 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 'Fire'. This topic is predominantly History 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 time of the Great Fire of London. We will study when and where the fire took place and use different historical sources to write diaries of the event. The children will learn about the way of life during this time, and make comparisons across time periods comparing London, homes, dress, food, occupations etc. We will also look at how London was rebuilt as a result. After Half Term we will look at fire in the context of Fireworks, Bonfire Night, Fire Safety and Dragons.

### **LITERACY**

Literacy will be taught following the Curriculum and where possible linked to the topic. The children will be writing diaries, Fire Poems with a pattern, Information booklets on the Great Fire of London, Fantasy Dragon stories, Firework Poems and Fire Safety leaflets and posters.

### **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 reading with your child at home. It is part of their homework. It is suggested that this 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 Monday. 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 Monday and Thursday.

### **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 3-5 new words to learn every Friday and will then be tested the following Friday. Please note these words will NOT be practised at school – 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

Playing games on Numbots or TT Rockstars at least 4 x a week is now part of their homework, but other online games such as Hit the Button are really good for practising these skills.

### **SCIENCE**

Before half term we will be looking at Light and investigating its 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. 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**

Please note that the homework expectation has changed. Your child will not be set any formal 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.

### **SATs**

As you are probably aware Year 2 SATs have now been cancelled by the Government.

### **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.

Thank you,

**Miss Burrough and Mrs Rose**

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

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September: Trip to the Weald and Downland Museum.**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October: Class Meeting for those parents new to our class (though other parents are also welcome to attend too if they wish).**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> / Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October: Parents' Evenings**