



Welcome to Sapphires Class!

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. We'd also like to say a big thankyou to last year's class for your very kind end-of-term gifts – you were all so thoughtful, thank you.

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 the playground from 8.35am. The children will start the day with spelling or phase 6 phonics work, which is followed by guided reading, then literacy and numeracy. In the afternoon we teach the foundation subjects which include science, history, geography, ICT, PE, PSHE, Music, 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 other historical seafarers or ships, such as Lord Nelson and the *Victory*, and 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 now follow the Charanga scheme of work, but 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 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 Whole Class 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. For those children who are not yet 'free readers', please read and re-read the reading scheme books with your child to allow them to decode first, and then improve their fluency and deepen their comprehension. We endeavour to listen to all children read their reading book once a fortnight 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 9.20 and 9.45am

Reading Rewards

To encourage children to read regularly we operate a reading reward scheme in our school. Every time your child reads 15 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 books your child has read. Children reading longer books are awarded a 'book point' for every 30 pages, so if your child reads such a book, please record the total number of pages in a book when they have finished. Please also record any library books or 'home' books that they read – ALL reading counts towards Book Prizes.

Spelling

The beginning of the Year focuses on Phase 6 Phonics lessons, and then as the year progresses, the children move on to learning 'Spelling'. Spelling classes will take place every day between 9.00 and 9.20am. During this time children will be working as year groups learning different rules, strategies and common exception words. They will be given 3 new words to learn every Friday and will then be tested the following 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

Every week your child will have a mental maths test and also will be tested on times tables at least twice a week, based on TT Rockstars. 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. **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

Both year groups 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 us 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 phonics/spellings and play Numbots and TTRockstars at least 4 times a week. This can be recorded in reading diaries. We will regularly check the children’s maths progress online within the TTRockstars website to monitor their progress.

SATs

As you are probably aware Year 2 is a SATs year. This means that the Year 2 children will take the end of Key Stage 1 tests in May. **There will be a meeting for parents between 3.30pm and 4pm on Wednesday 5th October.**

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 for your support.

Miss Burrough and Mrs Rose