

Summer 2022 - Sapphires

Happy Half Term to you all - we hope you thoroughly enjoy celebrating the historic events of our wonderful Queen's Platinum Jubilee and look forward to hearing all about your festivities. We'd also like to say how proud we are of the calm and focussed way our Year 2 children have approached their SATs over the last week. They have a great attitude to work and have thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

In this letter you will find important and useful information about the topics and skills we will be learning this term. 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 email us or make an appointment in school.

DAILY ROUTINE

The children may continue to come into school from 8.40am, and our school day starts **promptly at 8.50am**. Reading books that need changing should be placed in the Red Box. The children will start the day with their spellings work in their year groups on Tuesday and Wednesday, and their spellings test every Friday morning. This is followed by Whole Class guided group reading and then Literacy until playtime, and then by Maths after break. **Please note that the children have a Mental Maths test every Tuesday, and a Times Tables test every Monday and Thursday.** In the afternoon we teach the foundation subjects which include Science, Geography, History, RE, PSHE, PE and DT/art. School finishes at 3.15pm when we will lead the children into the playground. Please try to make sure that your child knows how they are going home or whether they have a club, and if you are going to be late collecting your child please contact the school as soon as possible. Due to the age of the children in our class, we would prefer them to be collected from the playground if possible, rather than on the pavement outside.

THE CURRICULUM

TOPIC

We were so glad to finally take our postponed trip to Marwell Zoo! The children were all beautifully behaved and had such great fun; we were particularly excited to have a fantastic close-up experience with Santos the sloth. Our topic this term is 'Zooming Out and Zooming In'. This topic is predominantly geography and science, as we will begin by focussing on mapping our classroom, then our meadow, zooming out to Buriton and its zones of relevance, Petersfield and Clanfield and gradually further out to find our place in the World. We will be learning compass skills, mapping and grid references, as well as completing fieldwork to answer social geography questions about improving our immediate surroundings. After half term we will begin to 'Zoom In' in a science/art based topic focussing on microhabitats, minibeasts and microscopic detail.

LITERACY

Literacy will be linked to our topic. We will start by focussing on 'Window' and 'Belonging' by Jeannie Baker, discussing their strong environmental/geographical messages. Since these are wordless books, we will be honing our inference and comprehension skills, and writing persuasive letters about improving our school environment. After half term we will be using our imaginations again to write flights of fancy based on 'The Tin Forest'.

If you could save as many WASHED aluminium/tin recycling items as possible for an art project, I would be very grateful (take-away trays, safe tin cans, cake cups etc).

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. **As part of their homework, 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. Reading records are checked daily. Year 3 children are encouraged to be independent readers, but they still need to read regularly to an adult at home. We endeavour to listen to Year 2 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.

Writing

The children will spend time developing their handwriting whilst learning their weekly spellings. We will be aiming to develop the children's formation of letters, pace of writing and overall presentation. There will also be literacy lessons, which will encourage the children to write creatively and practise skills taught in previous lessons.

Spelling/Phonics

Spelling will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.00 and 9.20am. During this time we will be working in groups, focusing on different spelling rules. Every week your child will bring home spellings to learn, and must also be aware of the meaning of the words as well as putting them in an oral sentence. Daily practise of these spellings is part of the children's homework, and they will be tested every Friday. We will also be focusing on Grammar and Punctuation during these sessions.

NUMERACY

In numeracy this term we will be revisiting, consolidating and extending concepts previously learnt and specifically covering: multiplication and division, money, shape, measurement and statistics and time. We will also have problem solving/investigation sessions.

Mental Maths, Times Tables and Number Bonds

Every week your child will be tested on times tables. Your child will be given 5 minutes to complete as many questions as possible correctly, striving to increase their knowledge of times tables facts and to improve their speed. We are also practising 'chanting' times tables and number bonds facts every day, and would encourage this rote learning at home too.

Times Tables Rockstars

Every child in the school has been issued with their TT Rockstars password, and it is **part of their homework to practise their tables at least four times a week**. The teachers can check how often the children are accessing their homework on the website. The tables are in the following order: 10, 5, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, and include both multiplication and division facts. The program is set up to automatically move children to

the next level once they have achieved sufficient fluency and speed at the level they are on. Another way to practise is a free program called 'Hit the Button' (find it easily through google search - it is part of the TopMarks website).

Number Bonds

We also encourage practise of addition and subtraction number facts (number bonds) in the following order: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25, 30, 50, 100. Again, 'Hit the Button' is a good place to practise number bonds.

SCIENCE

Science will link to our topic wherever possible, however where some units are more difficult to relate; these will be taught discretely. Our Science Topic this term will be 'How Animals Survive', where the children will be exploring how animals move, feed and sense to survive. We will be applying this knowledge to our study of Minibeasts and their microhabitats.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In the Summer Term, Tennis is taught for 45 mins every Monday afternoon with Paul Evans, and P.E. for an hour every Tuesday afternoon with Aspire coaches. Please ensure that your child comes into school on those days wearing their P.E. kits. P.E. lessons are usually taught outside so please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing/sunhat/sunlotion for hot or wet 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. The Year 3s will be participating in swimming lessons at Petersfield Open Air Pool on some Fridays - dates to be announced. Please note they will be leaving PROMPTLY at 9am and there is no room on the second coach: if your child is late they will unfortunately miss their swimming slot.

COMPUTING

The children will be taught computing by Mr Brown on Tuesday mornings. This term, for 'Programming' they will be learning about algorithms and basic coding.

Homework

The general purpose of homework is to develop effective partnerships between home and school, consolidate skills - particularly in literacy and numeracy, extend school learning, and to encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence, self-discipline and independence needed to study on their own, which will prepare them for the requirements of secondary school. In Sapphires the children are expected to complete 1½ hours of homework each week, comprising of reading, times-tables practise on TT Rockstars (we monitor their weekly progress through the website) and Spellings.

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