



# WELCOME TO EMERALDS CLASS

Welcome to Emeralds class everyone; we hope you had a wonderful summer! How lovely it is to see everyone again, we are super excited about the term ahead! In this letter, you will find out some details about the learning your child will be doing this term, our routines and any useful learning they could do at home to support this. Please feel free to contact us to discuss any questions or concerns you may have, we are here if you need us.

**All of our work is differentiated according to your child's individual needs, therefore, please understand that the following is a generalised account of some of the learning that will be taking place this half term. If you have any questions or concerns about any of these areas, please see either of us.**

## English

**Reading** – *“The more you read, the more things you know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”* This is a famous quote by Dr Suess. And it’s 100% accurate. We are reading everyday in class. We have guided reading sessions, where we read a class text and then complete a short activity based on the text. We have independent reading, where the children read their own books. Then at the end of the day, we read their class book to them. Reading is so very important for creativity, imagination, knowledge, communication, vocabulary and it can help us to be calm and relaxed. We love books and spending quality time sharing books with them and hope to instil this in our children too.

**Rain Player by David Wisniewski** - We will be reading this text as a class and will be basing our reading and writing activities on the text for the first few weeks. We will be writing shorter pieces focussing on instructions, posters, writing missing scenes, diaries, newspapers and a debate. We will also be writing a more extended piece of writing, which will be an analytical essay.

**Middleworld by J and P Voelkel** - We will be reading this text as our class reader and will be basing our reading and writing activities on the text for the last few weeks before half term. We will mainly be writing a diary entry from a character within the text and then creating a leaflet about an ancient Maya ruins.

**The Hero Twins by Dan Jolley and David Witt** – We will be basing our reading and writing activities on the text after half term. It is an ancient Maya myth, so we will be retelling the story using stop-motion.

**World Burn Down by Steve Cole** – We will be basing our reading and writing activities on the text at the end of the term. We will be writing poetry and playscripts.

**A Christmas Carol** – This will be our class reader once we have finished Middleworld and will be a perfect festive text to share leading up to Christmas.



**Helping at home** – Children learn so many skills for their writing from their reading. Please encourage your child to read every day for at least 20min. This could be anything your child is interested in; magazines, comics, newspapers, fiction books, non-fiction books, internet resources. It really is such an important life skill and if your child reads each day the benefits will be clear to see!

**Maths** – Our main focus is to prepare them their SATs and for secondary school, which whilst covering the year 6 curriculum, will involve revisiting previously taught areas of maths and formally assessing the children before the end of the year.

**Number** – We will be reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers up to 10,000,000 and determining the value of each digit. Rounding any whole number to a required degree of accuracy, using negative numbers in context, and calculating intervals across zero. We will also be solving number and practical problems that involve all of the above.

**Addition and Subtraction** – The children will be solving addition and subtraction multi-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why, using simple formulae and using their knowledge of the order of operations to carry out calculations involving the four operations. In algebra they will be using simple formulae, expressing missing number problems algebraically and finding pairs of numbers that satisfy number sentences involving two unknowns. They will also be performing mental calculations, including with mixed operations and large numbers, using estimation to check answers to calculations and determine, in the context of a problem, levels of accuracy.

**Multiplication and Division** – The children will be multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers up to 4 digits by a two-digit whole number using the formal written method of long multiplication and long division, and interpreting remainders as whole number remainders, fractions, or by rounding, as appropriate for the context. They will also be performing mental calculations, including with mixed operations and large numbers, solving problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and using estimation to check answers to calculations and determine, in the context of a problem, levels of accuracy and using their knowledge of the order of operations to carry out calculations involving the four operations. They will be identifying common factors, common multiples and prime numbers and expressing missing number problems algebraically.

In algebra they will be using simple formulae, generating and describing linear number sequences, finding pairs of numbers that satisfy number sentences involving two unknowns and enumerating all possibilities of combinations of two variables.

In ratio and proportion they will be solving problems involving the relative sizes of two quantities where missing values can be found by using integer multiplication and division facts, solving problems involving the calculation of percentages (e.g. of measures) such as 15% of 360 and the use of percentages for comparison. They will also be solving problems involving similar shapes where the scale factor is known or can be found and unequal sharing and grouping using knowledge of fractions and multiples.

In Statistics they will be calculating and interpreting the mean as an average and interpreting and constructing pie charts and line graphs and using these to solve problems.

**Fractions, Decimals and Percentages** – We will be using common factors to simplify fractions and common multiples to express fractions in the same denomination. Comparing and ordering fractions, including fractions  $>1$ , adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions and multiplying simple pairs of proper fractions, writing the answer in its simplest form (e.g.  $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{8}$ ) associate a fraction with division and



calculating decimal fraction equivalents (e.g. 0.375) for a simple fraction (e.g.  $\frac{3}{8}$ ). They will also be identifying the value of each digit to three decimal places and multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 where the answers are up to three decimal places. Multiplying one-digit numbers with up to two decimal places by whole numbers, solving problems which require answers to be rounded to specified degrees of accuracy and recalling and using equivalences between simple fractions, decimals and percentages, including in different contexts.

**Measurement** – We will be solving problems involving the calculation and conversion of units of measure and using decimal notation up to three decimal places where appropriate. We will be using, reading, writing and converting between standard units, converting measurements of length, mass, volume and time from a smaller unit of measure to a larger unit, and vice versa. We will also be recognising that shapes with the same areas can have different perimeters and vice versa and recognising when it is possible to use formulae for area and volume of shapes. We will also be converting between miles and kilometres, calculating the area of parallelograms and triangles and calculating, estimating and comparing volume of cubes and cuboids using standard units, including centimetre cubed ( $\text{cm}^3$ ) and cubic metres ( $\text{m}^3$ ), and extending to other units such as  $\text{mm}^3$  and  $\text{km}^3$ .

**Geometry** – We will be drawing 2-D shapes using given dimensions and angles, comparing and classifying geometric shapes based on their properties and sizes and finding unknown angles in any triangles, quadrilaterals, and regular polygons. We will also be illustrating and naming parts of circles, including radius, diameter and circumference and know that the diameter is twice the radius and recognising angles where they meet at a point, are on a straight line, or are vertically opposite, and find missing angles. We will be describing and building simple 3-D shapes, including making nets compare and classify geometric shapes based on their properties and sizes and finding unknown angles in any triangles, quadrilaterals, and regular polygons.

In position and direction, we will be describing positions on the full coordinate grid (all four quadrants) recognising, drawing and translating simple shapes on the coordinate plane, and reflecting them in the axes.

**Helping at Home** – *A really good way to become a competent mathematician is to mentally recall important numerical facts. Therefore, learning tables is an invaluable skill. Please work with your child on learning each times table in order and then, once learned, ask random questions for the answer. If practised often enough, these skills will become a recall skill and the children's mental calculations will become quicker and more accurate.*

**Science** – Our topic this term is 'Animals including humans'. The children will learn how to identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood. We will be finding out about the impact of diet, exercise and lifestyle on the way their bodies function. We will also learn to describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.

**Health Week** – During the week beginning the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 we will have a health week, where the main focus will be sex and relationship education. A letter with more details will be sent out nearer the time.

**History** - This term our topic is on the ancient Maya where the children will develop chronological knowledge and understanding of world history. They will learn about the ancient Maya civilisation and understand who they were and when and where they lived. We will be finding out about their everyday lives and culture, including their religious beliefs, food, number systems and writing.



**Helping at home** – Please allow your child access to the internet, books and any other resources to find out information about the ancient Maya.

**PE** - PE will be on a Thursday and alternate Friday afternoons with JC Sports, so please ensure your child is wearing a full and named PE kit on these days. As we move into winter, we recommend wearing more appropriate clothing for the weather, as we are going to try to keep the children outside as much as possible. It can get very cold and wet, so please ensure your child brings a pair of warm trousers and a waterproof coat along with a drinks bottle.

**Bikeability** – This year the children will have two days with the instructors from Hampshire Outdoors on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**Homework** - In year 6, the homework will be set to support the children's learning in school and the expectations will be to prepare the children for the increasing demands once they begin secondary school. Therefore, we recommend trying to encourage your child to find a weekly routine that works for your family, so that they are becoming more independent in organising their time. Homework will be set on a Monday by Mrs Carrick and that will be due in on a Wednesday. On a Friday Mrs Holloway will set homework to be handed in on a Monday.

**If homework, spellings and reading is not completed at home, or handed in on time, it will need to be completed during playtimes.**

**Reading** - As stated earlier, it is recommended that your child reads for at least **20 minutes every day**. It is expected that at least 4 x 20min sessions of reading are logged as part their homework. Please ensure your child has their reading diary with them every day, but on a Thursday their Book Points will be calculated and marked on the class display, so it must be in on that day to be checked. Each time your child achieves 30 book points by reading 30 pages or 30 books, they receive a certificate and a prize from Mrs Brown.

**Spelling** - Your child will take part in spelling sessions every week. These sessions consist of a variety of activities. Three or four spellings are given out and tested on a Friday and these should be revised at home. A spelling book will be sent home to practise as homework each week, however, this will need to be in school every Friday.

**Mental Maths** - Times tables and key skill knowledge is a fundamental part of the Maths curriculum. Therefore, it is expected that children practise their key skills at home. Please allow your child to play games and count to practise their skills. Times tables and key skills will be practised and tested on a Thursday each week. We will also have arithmetic sessions on alternate days to practise and develop these skills.

**Times Tables Rockstars** is an amazing resource that we encourage you to use with your child at home at least 3 times every week. It is designed to improve their times tables recall speed, which is fundamental to their development in maths, so please do continue to use this at home each week.

**DoodleLearning** – This program is designed to be a fun and interactive way for children to improve their confidence and ability within mathematics, times tables, English and spelling; it naturally tailors its questions and tasks to suit the strengths and weaknesses of each individual learner. The aim of Doodle is to spend a small amount of time each day sharpening your skills; ten minutes a day can make a real difference! We will set tasks every week as part of your child's homework – this will pop up as



an assignment when they log into Doodle. However, as well as these tasks, we expect your child to complete their daily tasks at least 4 times a week.

**CGP Books** – Your child will soon come home with CGP books for maths and English. We will set pages from the CGP books for your child to complete at home, which will support their work completed in class. We will then look back through the homework together in class, so please ensure they are brought back into school each week.

**SATs** – This year as you know, there are year 6 SATs. We will organise a meeting for parents so that you understand what to expect and how best to support your child. We will send a letter out closer to the time to confirm the details.

**Christmas Play** – We are so excited to be organising a Christmas play this term, so any support with learning lines and songs to ensure they feel confident enough to perform in front of an audience would be amazing.

Thank you again for your continued support and commitment to our wonderful school. Please do continue to chat to either of us in writing or if possible at the end of the day, if there are any queries you would like to discuss. Alternatively, please phone to make an appointment for a longer discussion.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Carrick and Mrs Holloway  
Class Teachers