



St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

Friday 10th February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Where has this term gone? I cannot believe that we are half way through the year – what a busy time we have had this term. We have learnt about the story of Ernest Shackleton and his expeditions to Antarctica, and also studied other Antarctic explorers, focusing on their successes, failures and the lessons they learnt. We have researched Shackleton's crew members and the type of men that he chose to be part of his crew. We have also started to create some beautiful pieces of Art work linked to the Antarctic landscape using a range of media.

We are continuing with the 'I will survive' topic next term. However, we will be changing our focus to learn about other explorers such as those who have travelled to space, including Tim Peake. We will continue to think about what skills the explorers needed to have and how their explorations developed. Our Science work will be launched with Science Week straight after half term and will have a few focuses including materials and their properties, thermal insulators and conductors, space and our body systems. Please see the attached sheet to see what else we will be learning about! We will also be learning about Anne Frank's story through an immersion day thinking about how and why she was a survivor during WW2.

Forest School:

We will continue to have Forest School in Term 4 so please ensure your child has full Forest School kit on a Friday. This must include long, warm trousers, a long sleeved top, suitable shoes/ wellies, waterproof coat and plenty of layers.

P.E:

It is best if the children bring their P.E. kit in on a Monday and take it home on a Friday as we may have to change P.E. days due to other events some weeks. As it is getting colder, please ensure they have jogging bottoms (blue, black or grey) and a sweatshirt (black or grey). Children with earrings will need to remove them independently for all PE sessions – a little container to keep them in would be useful on PE days!

Clarinets

Please encourage your child to practise the clarinet each week as they will then make greater progress within the sessions. A couple of reminders from Miss Swan: left hand at the top, lick the reed before playing, cover the holes of the relevant keys completely and press the magic button when assembling and dis-assembling the clarinets. (This should make sense to the children, however, please remind them of these). It is the children's responsibility to make sure they have their clarinets on Monday.

Homework reminder: Any homework the children have will be written in their yellow homework diary so please ensure they have this with them every day.

- 1) Each child has a **Reading Journal** which they will need to have in school every day. At the back of the journal there is space to record the reading your child does. I would like each child to record their reading at least FIVE times each week (not including the reading they record in school).
- 2) Each child will be set tasks to help them practise the **Maths skills** we have been learning in class. There have been quite a few children who have not been able to access the MyMaths homework for 1 reason or another so I will be using sheets more regularly to support the work done in class. These will be stuck in their books and brought home.



- 3) There is an increased focus on spelling in the new curriculum which we will be looking at in class. Please encourage your children to learn their spellings, which will usually be on a weekly basis.
- 4) Grammar and punctuation homework will also be coming home on a weekly basis, again to support to the work done in class.

Helping Out in Year 5

Thank you to Emma Richardson who continues to come in weekly to listen to the children read. If anyone else is able to help out, please let me know as any help is gratefully received! Please do not feel you have to come in every week if you volunteer, just turn up as and when you can and we will allocate you children to listen to. We also need occasional help when we go out on local trips. Please come and speak to us if you can help – we really do appreciate it!

Term 4 Y5 dates:

20th February 2017 –INSET day

21st February – 24th February Science Week

Please do let me know if you can help with Science Week as per the letter last week. We are looking for anyone who has experience/ knowledge within areas of Science to talk to the children or organise activities.

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns or send us an email via the 'office' email account – office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Colbourne and Mrs Perry

(Year 5 Team)