

William Barnes Class Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year and we hope you all had a fantastic summer break. The children have all returned fresh faced, enthusiastic and ready to learn, which is great. This promises to be a busy term and we have some brilliant topics to start the year.



Our **writing** inspiration will come from reading **traditional stories**. We will share many different familiar tales exploring the language, settings and characters and the children will have lots of opportunities to write their own versions. The children will need their book bags and **reading** records in school every day and in our individual and guided reading comprehension sessions the children will focus on information retrieval, developing skills of inference, deduction and expression. It is one of our key aims to foster a love of reading because it not only underpins all their other learning, reading is such an enjoyable thing to do.

Reading daily at home can make a huge difference. Little and often is best and listening to your child read regularly will really help cement their reading habit.

The children will have their own reading diary into which they can write in their own way about books they have loved. We will aim to share a story every day in school as it is lovely for the children to become immersed in the language. Our current story is George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl which the children are enjoying already. It is great to hear what the children are excited about reading at home too and we are delighted so many of them took part in the Summer Reading Challenge.

In **mathematics**, we will be focussing on developing children's understanding of place value. The children will compare and order numbers, learn to recognise the value of each digit and read and write numbers up to a 1000 and beyond. The children will also concentrate on methods for addition and subtraction, extending their times table knowledge and problem solving.



In **Science** we will be studying magnetism and metals. The children will begin by exploring the properties of metals. We will identify metal objects, consider what they look like, feel like and what they are used for. We will sort objects into metals and non-metal objects. The children will have opportunities to predict and test which objects will or will not be attracted by a magnet. We will explore the power of different magnets and test magnets through a range of materials thinking about whether the thickness matters. The children will have the chance to make their own magnet and we will learn how to make a simple compass.



In **RE** the children will be studying Buddhism and the life of the Buddha and his teachings. For the children in year four this will build very nicely on their learning about Hinduism last year, since both religions emerged from India.

This half term we will also have a mini topic called '**Tree Power**' which will aim to build the children's knowledge of different indigenous trees, why trees are so important to us and why we need to protect them. This topic offers lots of opportunities to get outside.

The children will need indoor and outdoor **PE** kit in school every day. This half term we will have multi-skills on a Monday afternoon and Team theme on a Tuesday afternoon. We will also learn some fun, cooperative outdoor games and practise running skills.

To explain our approach in William Barnes class to reading, spellings, times tables and also as an opportunity to introduce ourselves properly we would like to invite you to a short meeting after school on **Thursday 20th September**. This will give you a chance to ask any questions and hopefully find out easy ways to support your child's learning.



Fruit and snack: The children are welcome to bring a piece of fruit or a healthy snack

to eat at playtime and we encourage them to bring a water bottle to drink from throughout the day to help them stay hydrated.

Homework will include weekly spellings, reading and times table practice plus a topic related task. We will set homework every Thursday to come in every Tuesday. Homework can make a big difference to the children's progress but please never let it ruin your weekend. If you need any help or support with homework, please do not hesitate to ask.

There are lots of ways to support your child at home and my favourite kind of homework is when children choose to do homework themselves because they are inspired by their learning in class but here are a few extra ways to support your child's learning this half term: -

- Read together as often as possible. Encourage good expression and talk about books. Encourage them to write about what they enjoyed in the books in their reading diaries; look for favourite characters, quotes, funny bits, scary bits etc. Talk about their favourite authors and illustrators – why do they like them?
- Read lots of traditional stories; write your own versions, make story maps, puppets.
- Think about who your favourite hero or villain is from a traditional story.
- Find out if all traditional stories have happy endings?
- Think about what sort of materials the little pigs should have used to make a house. Why?
- Bake a gingerbread man.
- Practise times tables regularly – sing them, play snap, use multiplication grids.
- Visit the local library to borrow fact books about India, Buddhism and different metals.
- Make a magnet.
- Find out about precious metals.
- Read the Iron Man. Make your own Iron Man.
- Go for a walk and learn how to use a compass
- Find out if all British coins magnetic?
- Look out for games that use magnets.
- Design a fridge magnet.
- Make a collection of metal things – which are magnetic? Test them with a fridge magnet (take care with this)
- Use atlases to find out about the key geographical features of India and Southeast Asia.
- Research stories about the Buddha's life
- Ask 'Big' Science questions



I'm sure the children will have lots of their own ideas too!

In the short time we have been together, the class have shown themselves to be enthusiastic, focussed and supportive and we have had a lovely start to the year. If you are unsure about anything or need to speak to me then please ask and I will be happy to help.

Thanks for your support

Best wishes

Mrs Taylor, Mr Smith and the William Barnes Class Team