25th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mrs. Scott and I hope that you all had a wonderful Easter and that you have managed to enjoy some family time in the recent good weather – let’s hope it lasts!

I would like to give you some information about Squirrel’s class and our routines.

PE for the first half of the Summer term: This will continue to be on a Thursday and Friday with Mr. Day. Children are to wear appropriate PE kit to school on these two days only – school uniform must be worn on all other days.

Squirrels will continue taking part in outdoor learning on a Friday – The year 5 and 6 children will again be split into their year groups for this activity and a letter with a start date for your child and clothing needs should have come home this week.

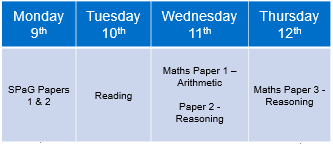
Water Bottles: Please ensure your child has a named water bottle with them when they come to school on Monday each week. This will be with them on their desk as we are no longer allowed to use the water fountain. We will send the bottle home with your child on Fridays.

Home learning will follow the same pattern of last term. One week topic, one week math, one week topic, one week English and so on. Home learning will be set on a Friday and should be in (either on teams or physically handed in) by the following Friday – It will always be for one week unless told differently. We will be starting with a topic home learning, the week after SATs (home learning will begin the week beginning 16th May). Spellings will also follow the same pattern of last term. They will be set on a Friday and will be tested on the following Friday. Please make sure your child uploads their sentences to teams by the Friday morning they will be tested.

Reading: All children continue to be on Accelerated Reader and have texts that are appropriately matched to their reading age. They must ensure that they read frequently at home (at least 10 minutes each day) as they will be tested when they finish the book and it becomes harder to recall information if they take an age to finish the text! Please, please do encourage your child to read at home – reading really is the gateway to all other learning.

We have started a class challenge to see who can be the first child to read a million words and some children are already close to passing the half a million point! We are also earning golden tickets for 85% passes on our quizzes, which earn us prizes at the end of each half term. The children are also on track to earn reading badges bronze for 15 books, silver for 30 books and gold for 45 books. Some children have already achieved their bronze, with many being just one book away.

Year 6 SATs – This will be happening the week beginning the 9th May.



Boosters will continue for the next two weeks, so please make sure you keep attending – we are nearly there!

This terms topic will be: Time Detectives. It is a History topic and our focus will be on Ancient Egypt. If you have any resources at home that you would like to share with us that would be wonderful!

I have an open door policy, both before and after school and hope that if you have any concerns or questions about anything to do with your child that you will not hesitate to come and see me (I am around from 8am in the morning and after school each evening). The only thing that I ask is that when the gate opens for the children (parents are still remaining at the gate for drop off and pick-up) at 8:30am you are not still on the school site, as this is the start of the school day and my attention is needed for the whole class and the school day needs to get started. If you need to see me at this time (e.g. at drop off), please go to the office and ask Mrs Palmer to let me know you need to see me and I will come to you as soon as the class is settled and I can get another adult to supervise the class. If you are unable to pop in and see me then drop me an email on [samantha.hammond@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:samantha.hammond@ventrus.org.uk). I pick up my emails frequently and will get back to you as soon as I can.

I hope this has covered all of your questions and look forward to a very busy and exciting term ahead.

Best Wishes

Sam Hammond