7th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mrs. Scott and I hope that you all had a wonderful family Christmas and that you have had a happy and healthy start to 2022.

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

PE: This will continue to be on a Thursday and Friday with Mr. Day. Additional to this, year 5 children will be going to Falcons gymnastics with Foxes class on a Tuesday afternoon (letter to follow). Due to the COVID situation still being very much alive around North Devon we are going to continue to ask that the children in Squirrels wear their PE kit to school on these two days (year 5s the gym letter will tell you about Tuesdays). They should continue to wear school uniform on the other days of the week.

Squirrels will also 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 maths, 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. 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 are now on Accelerated Reader and have texts that are appropriately matched to their reading age. They must ensure that they read frequently at home 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 will be starting a class challenge to see who can be the first child to read a million words. More about this to follow.

Year 6 SATs – this is a busy term building our learning towards the assessments in May. I have sent letters out to all of the year 6 children about booster sessions this week, please can you make sure that you send the slip back in to me at school or make contact via email if you have any questions or concerns around these planned sessions.

This terms topic will be: Take a walk on the wild side? It is a Geography topic and our focus will be on South America. 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