



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had wonderful Christmas with your friends and family, and are looking forward to the new academic year ahead! Below you will find some reminders and useful information to support your child throughout this term. We do try to stick to these weekly routines whenever possible and will always notify you if there are any changes to the schedule.

Please also use your log in to Google Classrooms and use the links to some of the games the children can play. Use this link to log in:  
<https://classroom.google.com/>

## Curriculum

- 🌈 During our Maths lessons, children will focus on addition and subtraction, learning to calculate numbers using different strategies and solve simple word problems. They will also practise multiplication and division, understanding groups, arrays, and sharing equally. In measuring length and height, pupils will explore how to compare, measure, and record using standard and non-standard units, developing practical skills they can use in everyday situations.
- 🌈 In English, the children will use a variety of different stimulus throughout the term to engage and inspire their writing. They will begin the term by looking at the story Vlad the Flea, an immersive story about the Great fire of London from an animal's point of view. The children will cover a range of writing genres such as: a story narrative and poetry. Children will also focus on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.
- 🌈 In History, the children will learn about the Great Fire of London, including when it happened, where it started, and who was involved. They will explore the causes and effects of the fire, how it spread so quickly, and how people responded at the time. Using evidence such as Samuel Pepys' diary, they will develop their understanding of the event and its impact on London.
- 🌈 In our Geography topic, the children will be focusing on a UK coastal area compared with the Gold Coast of Australia. A look at the human and physical geography of both areas, note similarities and make comparisons.
- 🌈 Our Science lessons this term, the children will be learning about Materials. We will be comparing and grouping different materials, looking at the changing state of materials and learning about the suitability of everyday materials.

## Reading

- 🌈 We ask that our children read at home at least three times each week. Please note in the school planner when your child has read, the page number reached and any comment you may wish to make. Children who have at least three adult signatures in a week will be awarded a raffle ticket to be in with a chance of winning our 'Reading Raffle' prizes! star for their superstar reader challenge. I hope to see lots of children achieving the gold award by the end of this school year!
- 🌈 School planners will be checked and signed by a member of the KSI team at least once a week. These form an important part of our home/school communication so please write in them regularly.
- 🌈 All children will take part in guided reading activities on a daily basis and be heard reading individually by a member of the KSI team at least once a week. To help us achieve this please can you ensure your child has their reading book and diary with them in school every day.
- 🌈 Please try to read with your child on a regular basis; research shows that even 10 minutes a day can have a significant impact on a child's academic progress. As well as listening to your child read please do try and find the time to read and share books with them as well. We always encourage children to read a range of different materials and books, not just their school reading books. The local libraries are an excellent way to encourage and support reading for pleasure. These can also be noted in the reading section of the school planners.

## Spellings

- 🌈 Spellings will be uploaded to Google classroom for our Year 2 children on Fridays. The children will then be tested on them the following Friday.
- 🌈 Spellings will focus on either a particular spelling rule/pattern or will be taken from the Year 1 and 2 statutory word list.
- 🌈 Please try to help your child to look at these words, pointing out any particular patterns that will help them to remember them. Many children find learning spellings very challenging so this should be low key and a fun few minutes.

## Times Tables

- 🌈 We will be introducing TimesTables Rockstars to some of our class this year who may not have used this before. To support the children's

learning and the children will all have their own individual login, which can be found in the front of their school planners. The children will also have access to a few songs that we will be learning in class to support our times table knowledge. Please access these videos that will be uploaded onto Google Classrooms, as they are an excellent way for the children to learn.

- 🌈 As you will know our school has also invested in Numbots, an app produced by the makers of Time Tables Rockstars. This app supports children's quick recall of addition and subtraction facts and we are encouraging children to play this alongside Times Tables Rockstars.

## Homework

- 🌈 Homework will be set on a Friday and this should be returned by the following Wednesday. Please sign your child's planner once it's completed.
- 🌈 Homework will alternate between a Maths or an English activity, linked to the unit of work they are covering in class, so they should be able to complete the activity independently. However, if your child feels they need some extra support to complete the activity they should ask in school asap.

## PE

- 🌈 The children will have PE on a Tuesday and Thursday this term. Following on from last year the children will be allowed to come into school wearing their PE kits on these days. Please ensure children are wearing the correct PE kit (house coloured top and black/blue shorts rather than just sports clothing).
- 🌈 Please remember to tie back long hair and wear no jewellery for safety reasons. If your child is wearing earrings they will have the option of removing them for the lesson or covering them with medical tape.

## Volunteers

- 🌈 We are always very grateful for any parents/grandparents/carers who would be willing to come in and help, either on a regular basis or as a one-off, or if you feel you could contribute to any of our topic work in any way, then please come in or contact us.

If there are ever any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch, either by popping in or telephoning. The support you give is essential for your child's progress and the closer we can work together the

better it will be for them. If you are on Twitter, please follow @sycamore\_treel to see regular updates.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss Humphreys