

BODSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

WOODPECKERS CLASS ORIENTATION AND NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

WELCOME

Welcome to the new school year; we are all very excited to be welcoming our children back to school, to continue their learning journeys. Can I take this opportunity to say thank you for all your hard work home-schooling during the lockdown.

PSHE and CATCH-UP

At the start of the year, lesson objectives will include those from the previous year group; we believe this will enable the children to have a sense of achievement, and help to increase self-confidence. As children return to school we will be delivering P.S.H.E. lessons, which will include talking about belonging and feeling safe at school (including respect for personal space and good hygiene habits); reconnecting with friends at school; the Coronavirus explained and keeping safe and well; managing worries, fears and anxieties; being positive and looking forward to learning and gratitude and appreciation. In addition there will be a focus on reading for pleasure, handwriting and spelling. We will deliver a 'Catch-Up' lesson daily for Term 1, to revise literacy and numeracy objectives from the earlier year group.

STAFFING

I will be the Class Teacher in the Woodpeckers and we will be supported by Teaching Assistant Mrs Bingley.

WEEKLY TIMETABLE - GUITARS and P.E. LESSONS

Woodpeckers class are fortunate to receive guitar lessons with Kent Music School, delivered by musician John Clarke. Unfortunately current restrictions mean that we are unable to recommence these lessons before January 2021. We have a supply of guitars for loan for each pupil (so please don't rush out and buy one!) In the meantime, music lessons will be taught in class. We are delighted to welcome Elite back from Thursday 10th September. Our second P.E. lesson takes place on a Monday. **On Mondays and Thursdays, please send children to school in full P.E. kit.** Please note that we cannot assist with removing earrings for P.E.

WORSHIP

Daily worship will take place in the classroom. The first lesson of the week will be delivered by Mr Newton via video, and the others will be based on the weekly Worship theme, delivered by myself. Once a week, we will have a 'celebratory' Worship, similar to Gold Book.

SAFETY MEASURES

Children will be sat side by side, facing forwards and classrooms will be well ventilated (please ensure children wear warm clothing and always have their jumpers with them). We will ensure a regular regime of frequent hand-washing. The Woodpeckers will be our 'bubble'. At lunch and playtimes our 'bigger bubble' will be the Woodpeckers and The Owls.

READING BOOKS

I am delighted to say that we are able to send books and reading records home again. Please read every day at home, and pop a short comment on the Reading Log. Children are heard read in class in several ways, and we aim to hear each child one to one every week. We will be reading 'Stig of the Dump' as our class book; our Guided Reading will be based around this text.

HANDWRITING AND SPELLING

We will be using some of our 'catch-up' sessions to improve hand-writing and revise the previous year group's spelling rules. In addition there will be a short spelling lesson introduced daily. A homework task will be sent home linked to the spelling focus in class.

BREAK-TIME SNACKS, WATER BOTTLES AND PENCIL CASES

Our children are used to having free fruit at break-time under the Key Stage 1 fruit scheme, which doesn't extend to Key Stage 2! Please can I suggest a piece of fruit or equivalent healthy snack (no packets please). Please send your child in with a named water bottle. This can be brought home every night for washing and re-filling. Under normal circumstances, Woodpeckers children look forward to bringing in their own pencil cases. At the moment, please keep those at home. Every child will be given a simple pencil case containing their own pen, pencil, rubber, pencil sharpener and glue stick.

HOMEWORK

Homework books will be sent home at the end of the first full week, on Friday. This term's homework is a themed grid of fun tasks, linked to our Topic, The Stone Age. I would suggest you aim to complete a minimum of 3 tasks this term. Some tasks can be completed in books; some could be photographed, or captured on video; and some tasks could be 3D models. There is a large element of choice on the grids....there is no maximum limit of completed tasks! It is helpful if all homework books are sent in to school every Wednesday. This gives me a chance to mark any completed tasks.

COMMUNICATION

We like to be available to answer any quick queries, especially as children start at the beginning of the year. As we will be unable to do this face to face at the moment, can I suggest the following ways of contact:

- A note handed to the member of staff at the door (due to the need for parents to drop off and exit the school grounds promptly, we will be unable to take verbal messages at this stage)
- An email - PLEASE ADDRESS THIS TO THE ADMIN / OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESS.
- A request for a telephone appointment between 3.45 and 4.45

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

These will take place during Term 1 (likely to be telephone consultations. Mr Newton will issue further details in due course.

Yours sincerely

Miss Skinner

Woodpeckers Class Teacher

