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Fleggburgh Church of England Voluntary  
Controlled Primary School

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5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

WELCOME TO DIAMOND CLASS - OR WELCOME BACK FOR OTHERS!

At the beginning of the school year I thought it might be useful to let you know what life in Diamond Class will be like this year.

### Homework

We have decided to change the way we set homework this term. Homework books will be given to pupils on a Tuesday containing both English and Maths homework activities. Pupils will then have the whole week to complete these. The homework books will then need to be handed in first thing on a Monday unless otherwise informed.

Year 3 and 4 are expected to spend about 15 to 20 minutes on each piece of homework and Year 5/6 about half an hour. Please don't feel your child has to complete all the worksheets or task set. As long as they have worked hard and for the right amount of time, then that is fine. Should your child forget their homework they will lose Golden Time. As they are now in Diamond Class, the emphasis is on them to become more independent and take more responsibility for their own homework though it might be helpful if you encourage them to find a routine at the start of term. You can of course help them with any homework if they find it difficult, but please could you annotate the sheet or book to show where your child had help so that we know what further work we need to do with them. Thank you!

Please hear your child read at least twice a week. On these nights, please can you sign and date their homework diary to say that you have either heard or seen them read. If your child is a confident free reader, it is not always essential that you hear them read. Reading should be for pleasure so 20 minutes in bed is as acceptable as 20 minutes sat with you, as is reading a magazine or newspaper.

Weekly spellings will be given on a Friday (stuck into their green reading diaries) and then tested the following Friday. Please could you help your child learn these.

Reading journals will be due in fortnightly. There is a list in the front cover of the reading journal explaining the different activities that could be completed for the book your child is currently reading.

## PE

PE is on Wednesday and Thursday and for this term will be games skills. Weather permitting, these lessons will take place outside on the playground or field so please ensure your child has appropriate PE kit. School PE kit consists of a yellow T-shirt, navy/black shorts, trainers (no black pumps) and a warm navy/black tracksuit for cold weather. A shower proof jacket may also be useful for those odd showers. Trainers should be a different pair to those that they wear to school as the field can become very muddy in winter. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for remembering their own kit and will lose Golden Time if they forget it.

## CURRICULUM

We have a variety of topics for this term. For the first two weeks we have a short topic of 'All about me'. For the rest of the term, in Geography our topic will be water including rivers and seas, and in History – the Anglo-Saxons. In Science we will be studying a chemistry unit: geology, mixtures and separation. If you have any artefacts, books, music etc. at home that could help us with our studies, please do send them in (named please). Also, you could encourage your child to look for any information on these topics (you can be as creative as you like), especially if you are a member of the library!

In English this term we will be focussing on studying books by Roald Dahl as it is his 150 year anniversary. This will also link to their writing of an autobiography as they will study Roald Dahl's autobiography. English work will be linked to topic lessons too, through recounts of trips and explanation texts linked to science. Pupils will continue to be encouraged to read a range of own choice books and record their thoughts and ideas about their reading in their reading journals.

In Maths we will begin the year with a week on place value then continue to concentrate on calculations and the application of these. We will also cover shape, measurement - including time, fractions and decimals. Please can you practise all times tables with your child as there is now an expectation that pupils know to 12 x 12 by the end of year 4. We will of course continue to practise times tables in class too.

## HELP!

We always welcome help in the classroom. If you could spare some time each week to hear readers or run an after school club, please let us know.

Should you ever have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us. We are usually available before and after school. Hopefully with us all working together, we can have a fantastic term and ensure that your child, or children, gets the most out of Diamond class life.

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid Rounce and Gemma Yassin  
Diamond Class Teachers