Fleggburgh Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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Interim Executive Headteacher Mrs M J Burns **Head of School Mrs Ingrid Rounce**



6th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

WELCOME TO DIAMOND CLASS - OR WELCOME BACK FOR OTHERS!

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

HOMEWORK

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.

Homework is challenge based and pupils are expected to try all the challenges. However, if they find the higher challenges too difficult, it is fine to leave them. We do expect every child to do their best though and should the homework not be completed to a level we believe they are capable of, they will be asked to complete it again in school. We are focussing on presentation and handwriting this year so homework is also expected to be completed to a high standard. English may be written in pen or pencil, but Maths needs to be completed in pencil. 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. 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.

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 as often as possible.

PE

PE is on Wednesday and Thursday and for this term will be games skills and cross-country. 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.

CURRICULUM

We have a variety of topics for this term. For the first two weeks we have a short topic of 'Monet'. For the rest of the term, in Geography our topic will be mountains, and in History – the Vikings. In Science we will be studying a chemistry unit: Water, Acids and Alkalis. If you have any artefacts, books, music etc. at home that could help us with our studies, please do send them in. 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 a non-fiction unit based around our studies of the church. This will be followed by a fiction unit of work based on 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' for Year 3/4 and 'Itch' by Simon Mayo for Year 5/6. 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, 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