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**Fleggburgh Church of England Voluntary  
Controlled Primary School**

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Interim Executive Headteacher Mrs M J Burns  
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6<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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. 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. This will be slightly different this year as your child will have an English homework book and a Maths homework book with the year's homework in it. They only need to complete one piece from each book each week. Please do not allow your child to complete more than this as we will not have taught the skills and we will only mark one piece each week.

Homework is based on concepts previously taught and pupils are expected to try all the questions. However, if they find the questions 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 book to show where your child had help so that we know what further work we need to do with them. Thank you!

Please can you 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 and again we only require one piece per two weeks. The emphasis is on quality not quantity. 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 or has read.

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 with good grip (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. In Geography, our topic will be Countries and their capital cities, and in History – The Stone Age. In Science, we will be studying a chemistry unit: Particle Theory and Chemical Reactions. 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 fiction unit based around our studies of the Anglo Saxons - reading the book 'Wolf Brother' by Michelle Paver. We will be précising a chapter, writing additional chapters, exploring characters and it will culminate in writing a short story. We will also draw on the text for our non-fiction writing where we will write a survival guide for living in the forest and explore food that can be foraged - linking this writing to our Harvest Festival Performance. We will also explore a wolf legend – the Story of Gelert with pupils writing their own legend at the end. English work will be linked to other topic lessons too, through recounts of trips and explanation texts linked to science. We will also be going to see 'The Wizard of Oz' pantomime at Christmas so all our Christmas work will be based on this. 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