

Lacerta Class & Phoenix Class

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely Summer break and that your children are ready for a fun and productive Autumn term. We will be available at the classroom door at the beginning and end of the school day if you need to speak to us or have any concerns. If you have any queries at any point during this important year, please do not hesitate to contact us or make an appointment to meet Miss Madden or Mr Frame.

Homework

As you know, homework for English and Maths is set every Monday. Homework grids are stuck in the beige and pink homework books and they are to be returned by the following Monday. The children are able to choose from a range of activities from the grids and are required to complete at least one a week, with at least one from each row completed by half term. We will continue to set online maths activities on www.mathletics.co.uk to consolidate learning at school. For any children that don't have internet access at home, we will ensure they have an opportunity to complete any online tasks at school.

Reading continues to be a big focus for the school. The requirement for Year 5 is that the children read for at least 15 minutes per day, which should equate to at least 70 pages per week. Their reading records need to be in school every day and will be checked on a weekly basis. Please sign the reading record to indicate when and how much they have read at home.

The children have been told to approach us before Thursday if they are having problems with any part of their homework. Please feel free to write comments in your child's book as to how you feel they coped with the tasks set. Spellings will be set on Monday each week and will be tested on Friday. We will include a spelling sheet with homework which will have their spelling words along with ideas for how to practise learning them.

Ways in which you can help your child:

- * Check homework books and support your child in completing their homework.
- * Regularly read with your child and discuss their books with them, including asking lots of questions to ensure they have a good understanding of what they are reading.
- * Test your child on their spellings and the times tables they are working on (if any).
- * Encourage your child to visit www.mathletics.co.uk to work on their maths.

PE

Children must have their correct PE kit in school at all times. Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit to school on Monday and that it is taken home to be washed as necessary. Children will need **both indoor kit** (blue shorts and a white T shirt) **and outdoor kit** (jogging bottoms, a sweatshirt, a separate white T shirt and sensible, supportive training shoes) throughout the term. PE kit must be named in order to avoid a large amount of lost property. Please note that children must be able to remove their earrings in order to participate fully in PE lessons for health and safety reasons. Members of staff cannot remove earrings or be responsible for storing them.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Monday 18 th September	Meet the teacher evening (5.30pm)
Friday 20 th September	Autumn Fete
Monday 23 rd – 27 th September	20 th Anniversary celebrations
Monday 30 th September	Harvest Festival week
Friday 4 th October	Lacerta Class Assembly
Thursday 10 th October	Parent consultations (details to follow)
Monday 14 th October	Individual photographs
Tuesday 15 th October	Parent consultations (details to follow)
Friday 18 th October	Team afternoon
Friday 18 th October	End of term
Monday 28 th October	Children return to school

A SOUTH AMERICAN ADVENTURE

GEOGRAPHY

We are all very excited to have a new curriculum topic as our first in Year 5. Our learning on South America will include facts about: where it is; what countries it includes; the climate; major mountain ranges; human geography and the trade and industry of the continent.

SCIENCE

Our first science topic is 'Our Changing World', in which the children will learn about changes to plants over time and how plants are able to reproduce themselves. In addition we will be investigating the length of a plant's lifecycle.

MUSIC

The children will develop what they learnt using glockenspiels in Year 4. They will learn to play musically with increasing confidence and control.

ART

Our art will be cross-curricular this half term with a focus on the artistic traditions of South America. The children will be designing and making Guatemalan dream catchers and worry dolls.

PE

Outside we will be learning the rules and skills required to play the game of netball. Back inside we are doing a brilliant dance unit with a nice link to South America based around 'dance on the beach'.

RE

The children will be learning about Hinduism and what stories can tell us about the core beliefs, deities, truth, authority and tradition.

MATHS

In the first half term of the year we will focus on consolidating children's knowledge of place value and the four main operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Areas of fractions will also be covered.

ENGLISH

We will start the half term by writing a recount of an event from the Summer holiday. Our learning in English will then be based on topic based texts, starting with 'The Great Kapok Tree'. Spelling patterns will also be a focus for this half term. Guided reading will look to build on comprehension and inference skills learnt in Year 4.

PSHE

We will start the year covering conflict resolution. Our studies will give the children the skills and tools they need in order to both avoid conflicts and deal with any that occur in a thoughtful and mature manner.

SPANISH

Modern Foreign Language teachers from Cambourne Village College will be teaching Spanish this term. The specialist Spanish teachers will be building on what the children learnt in Year 4.

COMPUTING

The first unit of the year is all about how to stay safe online. We will be using the fantastic resource Purple Mash as our focus for this unit and all of the computing units this year.