



Elliott Park School
Newsletter

Class:	Norman	Term:	1
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Dear Parents

I hope you all had a good summer break. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to this new school year. I am looking forward to working with both you and your child during this new school year.

During this final phase of Key Stage 1, a key skill we will work hard to develop is independence and responsibility. Please allow your child to continue to gradually increase their independence at home through tasks such as packing their lunch and school bag, ensuring they have all items necessary in their school bag and making decisions. Could I just take this opportunity to remind you that as a school we follow a strict 'no nuts' policy, which includes hazelnut flavoured chocolate spread sandwich fillings.

The children and I have decided on preferred behaviours for the ideal student and teacher and we have signed pledges to represent our promise to try and work hard to help each other aim to always be the best we can. These are displayed within the classroom. We also have a proud cloud in the classroom, where children's names are added when they are praised for something during the school day. This will also earn them a postcard home, in order to share their success with their parents.

During this first term we will be looking at stories which featuring specific characters. We will start the term using minions as our focus looking at how they are portrayed in the film and books before creating our own versions of these characters. The children will then look more closely at how characters differ and writing detailed character descriptions. We will consider the use of adjectives as a way of improving our sentences. We will then consider what our characters say and how this is included in writing, paying close attention to the necessary punctuation. During the second part of the term we will move on to look at pirates as common characters used in fiction. Although these often have stereotypical character traits, we will consider some stories involving pirates and look closely at the way fiction is constructed before the children create their own imaginative pieces in a similar style. The children will also be writing a number of non-fiction texts based on elements of the books. We will also use this theme as our inspiration for creating some poetry.

In maths, the beginning of this term will aim to consolidate prior learning before moving on to working on improving the children's working knowledge of number and place value. This will ensure the children are confident in working with numbers before applying this in addition and subtraction problems. Knowledge of times tables are crucial in all aspects of maths and these should be practised as often as possible to ensure the children's knowledge of these is secure, starting with 10s and 2s.

Children will look at the life cycles of humans and various animals and then build on their understanding that exercise makes the heart work faster and that it is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle.

In PE the children will be learning the skills required to play rugby, moving on to the rules and tactics of playing a game of rugby. Please ensure PE Kits remain at school all week. Tuesday and Thursday will be your child's main PE sessions; however, they may have a session on a different day during the week.

In Computing, students will be looking at the importance of e-safety. They will also start coding app Box Island and use this to learn about further programming ideas such as loops.

History and Geography will be taught alternately each term over the academic year. This will allow us to spend more time focusing on topic areas and developing crucial skills highlighted in the curriculum. In term 1, History will be taught, focussing on the terrible events of 1666. We will start by looking at the events surrounding the fire and at the diary of Samuel Pepys, learn some new vocabulary, then use ordering activities to better understand the timeline of events and finish off by writing about the Great Fire of London.

This term in Art, we will introduce the children to the much-admired works of the pop artist, Roy Lichtenstein. We will be looking closely at his works, and attempt to recreate some of this pop art for a school art project.

In RE this term, the children will begin to look at Christianity. They will start this topic exploring the meaning of creation and the values and beliefs of a Christian.

The children will continue to form part of the Key Stage 1 choir and will now begin working on their performance for the end of the Christmas term. If any of the children, who haven't already would like to begin private music lessons for piano, keyboard, violin, recorder or singing with Mr Burleigh (at an additional cost), these can also be arranged. I would like to remind you that these are arranged directly with Mr Burleigh, however, we will endeavour to ensure they are at minimal disruption to lessons.

A timetable has been provided for your information in the front of your child's homework diary. In order to make learning more relevant to the children, I intend to make links between different areas of the curriculum, providing additional opportunities to develop thinking skills and encouraging transferable abilities across their learning in a range of subjects.

Parent liaison is as ever, incredibly important to us, and during this term there are a number of opportunities for you to join us. Please consider joining the PTA, the next meeting of which will be on Wednesday 11th September at 6pm and will give you the chance to engage with parents from across the school.

We are currently making plans to host a Parent Information Session on Thursday 12th September, during which we will be sharing important details regarding phonics as a route to learning to read and how we provide this within school. To discuss your child individually, their progress to date and targets for the rest of the year, 1:1 parent consultations will be taking place at the very beginning of next term.

Personal reading, learning weekly spellings using Spelling Shed, preparing for the weekly mental maths test and using the Times Tables Rock Stars app will form a large percentage of your child's homework, for which I thank you in advance for your support. Further details regarding these will be distributed soon.

Please use the Homework Diary to record when your child reads at home, along with any comments or questions you may have regarding this. Hearing your child read aloud, discussing unknown vocabulary and asking questions regarding what they have read is extremely beneficial to their development. Further information regarding additional homework will be provided as the work is set.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that, at the end of each day, the children will be dismissed onto the playground at 3.10pm. There will be after school clubs available for the children, starting on Monday 16th September. Further details regarding these will be promulgated shortly. This term will end on Friday 18th October, on which day we will be having a Harvest Assembly. We will be asking children for contributions to the Harvest donation we will make on this day.

Next term will begin on Tuesday 29th October, at which point all children will be required to wear winter uniform. During term 2, there are already a number of dates for you to bear in mind.

Sept	
12 th	Kent Test 11+ - Year 6 only
12 th	3.20 11+ info session – Year 5 only
12 th	3.20 Phonics information session for Nursery, Reception & Year 1 & 2 only
24 th	Kent Messenger First Class photo – Reception only
Oct	
18 th	Harvest Festival food collection
18 th	End of Term 1
29 th	Term 2 begins – Winter uniform only
29 th	Parents Evening – Yr 1, Yr 4, Yr5 & Yr 6
30 th	Parents Evening – Nursery, Yr2, Reception, & Yr 3
Nov	
4 th	Individual and Class Photographs
15 th	Orchard Theatre Trip (Dartford) - Key Stage 2 only
Dec	
2 nd	Flu vaccinations to include Reception & Years 1,2,3,4 & 5
11 th	Gulbenkian Theatre Trip (Canterbury) - Reception & Key Stage 1 only
12 th	Christmas present wrapping room & Christmas party
13 th	Christmas performance – whole school except Nursery

POLITE REMINDER

Elliott Park School has a ‘NO NUT’ policy, which includes hazelnut chocolate spreads in sandwiches. We have children currently at the school with nut allergies and I’m sure you can appreciate we do not want to put these children in any unnecessary dangers.

If at any time you have any questions or comments about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me either before or after school to arrange an appointment, or by a note in the Homework Diary. I look forward to working with you in order to enhance your child’s school experience.

Thank you in advance for your support. Miss Nina Montgomery