

Fireflies Class

January 2023

Dear parents,

As we move swiftly through the school year, I would like to just go over a few things. Some of the expectations and routines have changed as we found our rhythm and adjusted to the new school year before the Christmas Holidays.

Home Learning

This will continue as it did last term a paper copy given out every Tuesday due to the possibility of forest schools on Wednesday. Each term there will be a different focus on the weekly homework. Please support your child with their home learning where necessary but let them complete it as independently as possible. Encourage them to take pride in their work and to think about their presentation, handwriting, punctuation and spelling. The due date for the homework will be provided on the letter, this can be handed in via a paper copy (to which I will always provide a worksheet for) or via Dojo Portfolios. Please feel free to message me if your child has particularly struggled with a task or really enjoyed it. I am always happy to see photos of their learning at home too. 😊

Times Tables

All Year 4s will be expected to complete a Statutory Multiplication Check at the end of the year. The expectation is that they are confident in knowing their times tables up to 12 x 12 and can give an answer to a multiplication question quickly. Therefore, they need to get to know these as stand alone facts and not just rely on counting on. We will be doing lots of work to help with this but anything you can do at home to support this will be much appreciated. As well as tackling tables, each Year 4 student will be given a weekly timestable quiz to help prepare them, and this will also go home with them on Tuesday to practice. We will still use tackling tables as normal, with the expectation that the children are completing 30 minutes each week. Packs of cards can be purchased at the office, and I am able to send log in's to anyone who needs them.

Reading

Please encourage your child to write in their reading records so we can keep a track of the books they have read and monitor the length of time they are spending on each one. Ideally, children should read at home 5 times a week for at least 15 minutes. All of the children's library/sharing books will be changed at least once a week on a Wednesday when we have library time, please could you ensure your child has their library book and reading record on that day.

Children on the RWI programme will receive phonics books from Miss Shearing or Mrs Crooke. Please ensure your child is bringing this in everyday so that it can be swapped and read in the sessions. If you have any queries about phonics, please speak to Miss Shearing.

Spelling

All children will now be introduced to a new a list of spellings each Monday during their spelling skills lesson. The spellings are added to their spelling book and brought home for them to practice ready for the following Monday, please ensure that your child has their red spelling book with them every Monday. It would be helpful if you could support your child in learning their spellings at home; 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' is a useful approach. In addition to their home spellings, the children will have lots of opportunities at school to practise them and will receive short but regular focused spelling sessions where we address different spelling rules and patterns.

Break time

As a reponse to pupil voice within Fireflies, we no longer have breacktime at the usual time of 10:30. Instead, we conduct a brain break within class which changes everyday, have our snack and continue with learning until 11:40 when the children have an extended break/lunch time. This will continue to be monitored, and if their views change it will revert back to how it was previously.

Hope that you have found this helpful!

Many thanks,
Miss Rope