Dear Parent/ carer, September 2021

We would like to welcome you and your child back to a new school year. We hope your child is looking forward to the new school year, especially as things begin to get back to normal, and that the following information will help them settle well into Sticklebacks class.

**Topic**

Our topic this term is ‘Fire and Ice’. We will be studying The Great Fire of London up until half term, looking at historical evidence and the reasons why the fire spread so quickly. We will be comparing fire-fighting techniques then and now and may even be lucky enough to have a visit from some real-life fire-fighters! If anyone has any fire-fighting dressing up items or role play toys that they would be willing to lend or donate, we would love to re-house them in our role-play area. After half term, we will be finding out about Antarctic exploration, in particular the expeditions of Scott and Shackleton. We will be writing factual reports about polar animals and, in science, we will find out how materials change when they are heated or cooled.

**PE and Forest School**

PE during the Autumn Term is timetabled for Wednesday. Your child’s kit needs to be in school every day just in case this session changes for any reason. Please ensure that they have navy blue shorts, t-shirt, trainers and appropriate warm clothing for going outside and that all items are clearly named. PE kits will be sent home on a Friday for washing but do please remember to send it back in on a Monday.

Sticklebacks will be taking part in Forest School sessions every Tuesday morning with Mr Pemble. They will need long trousers or leggings and appropriate footwear, either old trainers or wellies.

**Homework**

Please continue to hear your child reading as often as possible (see below). Children can also access activities set on Spelling Shed and Maths Shed and will have access to online books through Fonetti.

Children will be given log in details within the next couple of weeks.

Project work, to be completed over the term, will be sent home within the next week. More details on how this project work can be shared with school will be sent home in the coming few days.

**Water bottles and snacks**

Please remember to send your child in with a water bottle. Water is available throughout the day in the classroom. Fruit snacks will be provided by school. Children can have this in addition to their snack from home or as a replacement.

**Reading**

Reading is a fundamental part of your child’s education and we would encourage you to hear your child read every day or as often as possible. Whilst hearing them read, it is also useful to discuss the book with your child in order to check their understanding of the story. Please write in their yellow reading record book when you hear them read and encourage them to put their reading books in the box as they come through the gate every morning so that we can check whether they need to change their book. We would like children to read a book twice before changing it to ensure that any unfamiliar words are consolidated before moving on.

**Spelling and Phonics Lists**

Look out for a pack of word lists and phonic sounds in your child’s book bag. These were discussed at the Meet the Teacher evening this week. If you have any questions about these lists or anything else, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, if your recycling bins are looking full, please feel free to send in any empty cardboard boxes, cereal packets, clean milk cartons so that children can build junk models.

**Organisation of the week**

Mrs Clayton will be teaching on a Tuesday afternoon, Mrs Blake will be teaching on a Wednesday and all other times Mrs Ejiogu will be teaching.

We are looking forward to the new term and all the new learning opportunities and challenges ahead.

Mrs Ejiogu, Mrs Clayton & Mrs Blake