**Summer- Term 5 and 6– Year 3 Parent Newsletter**

Dear Parents,

We all hope you had a lovely Easter holiday. We hope you had a good break from school and that the children are well rested and ready for another hard working term. We have lots planned, including lots of outdoor learning using the school grounds and using the Rio Olympics as a focus for our learning.

**PE Kit:**

PE days in Term 5 and 6 will be **Thursdays and Fridays (Swimming).** However we are hoping to include some extra sessions to take advantage of the warmer weather. Your child’s kit needs to be in school every day just in case these sessions change for any reason. Please make sure that they have navy blue shorts, t-shirt, trainers and appropriate warm clothing for going outside. Feel free to take your child’s kit home on a Friday if it needs washing but do please remember to send it back in on a Monday. Please remember to label all PE kit, school tops, jumpers and trainers/shoes. This is also important for all uniform and coats.

**Homework:**

 This **has changed** from last term and both the maths and English homework will be set on a Friday. Children should usually use homework books to complete work in unless they are given specific instructions otherwise. Year 3 homework is set and handed in as detailed below:

**Friday** - A piece of maths homework to be completed by the following Thursday. Times tables will also be tested every Friday – children should be learning division facts alongside times tables. They should be able to recall these facts at speed and in a random order. Hit the Button, which can be accessed on the following link, <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>, is a great way to practise times tables and number facts.

**Friday** - Spellings or word and sentence work will be given out on Friday to be handed in on the following Thursday.

**Reading** – It is still vital that your child reads daily, preferably with you or at least discusses what they have read with you. This has a real impact on all of their work and really increases the vocabulary they are able to use in their written work.

If homework is not handed in on time then children are expected to complete it during lunchtime.

**Water bottles:**

Please remember to send your child in with a named water bottle which they can keep in the classroom as drinks from the water fountain are only available during break and lunch times. This is particularly important as the weather starts to get warmer.

**Curriculum**

Our topic this term is called ‘The Secret Garden’. We started the term with a day out in the garden and the children cleared all the raised beds, planted a variety of vegetables and looked at the area outside our classroom to think about how we could develop the garden which was started last year. We all planted sunflowers and are having a competition to see who can grow the tallest plant. The Bicester Film Festival is looming and we hope to enter a whole class film based on the life cycle of a plant. We will also be using a variety of story books, including ‘Stig of the Dump’ and ‘The Curious Garden’ to write stories and create miniature gardens for unusual creatures.

In term 6 we will be using the Rio Olympics to think about how we can develop healthy lifestyles both through exercise and diet. We hope to use some of the equipment supplied through our work with NOSSP (North Oxfordshire School Sports Partnership)to complete some Paralympic challenges. We will be choosing a country to look at to develop our knowledge of the wider world.

At the end of term 6, we have planned a trip to a special secret garden – more details of this will follow towards the end of term 5. Mrs Rowe is also hoping to take the children to a synagogue to help develop their understanding of other faiths and cultures.

**Attendance**

Good attendance is vital for success, so please bear in mind that if your child is well enough to potter about at home then they are probably well enough to be in school. As long as they always work hard and join in with enthusiasm then they will have personal success.

**Problems and Concerns:**

We all hope that everything continues to run smoothly this year but would stress that if you do have any problems or concerns that you come and see one of us as soon as possible. Mornings are always busy but we will find time if it is urgent. Otherwise please catch us before school to arrange a time when we can meet to discuss your concern in more detail.

Kathryn Churchill, Zoe Rowe and Sue Ashdown