

Spring Term – Seahorses Parent Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to all of you and we hope you had a pleasant Christmas. The children were full of excitement in the last few weeks of Autumn term but have settled into their routine quickly and confidently.

Communications

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 share these with one of us as soon as possible. Mornings are always busy but if it is urgent we will of course find time to deal with the issues. Otherwise, please contact the office, via e mail, who will forward on your messages or use the home learning email, so that we can either respond by e mail, telephone or arrange a meeting to discuss your concern in more detail. Keep an eye on the school newsletters to find out important information.

Homework

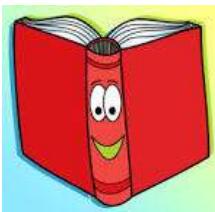
Spellings, Times Tables and Maths Key Skills

All children have **Spelling/Maths Shed** and **Times Table Rock Stars** log-ins which they should be using regularly to keep practising key skills.

- On **Tuesday** we will be completing some spelling activities and these will be set as assignments on Spelling Shed and as individual word lists that they will bring home. To learn the spellings the children could use magnetic letters, try writing the words out or popping them into sentences.
- On **Friday** we will check that the children have read at least three times per week.
- All Seahorses are now completing times tables tests. It is really essential that they keep learning and revising **all** of the times tables and division facts as this sets them up to be able to answer the termly assessments we do. For some children it is a struggle but regular rote learning is the key to success. This will help them to learn strategies for answering calculation questions across maths.

There will be positive recognition for children that have completed their learning at home.

Reading – Children should be encouraged to read nightly and where possible to an adult, even if they are a fluent reader. Children are asked to show in their reading record that they have read **at least 3 x each week**. They will be rewarded in school when they have shown this in their diary. The children should bring their books and reading records to school **daily**, as they are given regular opportunities to read independently and where appropriate, to an adult.





Water bottles and snacks

Please remember to send your child in with a named water bottle (**not** squash) which they can keep in the classroom. This can be re-filled during the day. If children are bringing in snack for break time, please remember this should be healthy food like a piece of fruit or fresh vegetables.

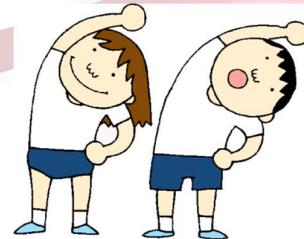
Curriculum

This term we have sailed to The Wild West to begin our topic of a Road trip in the USA. This topic is a Geography based unit and will give the children the opportunity to compare and contrast their locality to another continent. The work on The Wild West has a little historical context in order for the children to use some non-fiction texts to write recounts.. Most of our **English** work will be based on books with an American theme and these will be the inspiration for our writing. In **Art** we will be looking at the artist Roy Lichenstein and learning how to create Digital Art. In **DT** we will build our own miniature skyscrapers and explore the role of architects in designing the. The children will also be developing their **Computing** skills using our Purple Mash resource to create simple spreadsheets.

In **RE** we will be exploring how light is celebrated within three key faiths and then investigating Easter as a celebration for Christians. Our SCARF **PHSE** will focus on Valuing Differences and Being My Best which is part of our Relationships and Sex Education. The RSE policy can be found on the website and a copy of the correct terminology that we encourage children to use can be found on our class page. In **French** this term we will be learning the name of *les légumes* (vegetables).

PE Kit

PE days this term will usually be on **Fridays**. Your child's kit needs to be brought into school every Monday and taken home every Friday to be washed. Please make sure that they have navy blue shorts, t-shirt, trainers and appropriate clothing for going outside (navy tracksuit bottoms, sweatshirt etc.). Please remember to label all PE kit, school tops, jumpers and trainers/shoes. This is also important for all uniform and coats. **Forest School** for the first half term on a Thursday afternoon and will be replaced by another PE slot after half term.



Rewards and certificates

We have really high expectations for our pupils and their hard work and excellent behaviour is rewarded weekly. Children are given family group points for good work, effort and behaviour and a range of certificates depending on how many they've achieved in total.

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.

We are looking forward to the new term with its many opportunities to learn together.

Caroline Allen - Class Teachers

Claire Radley and Maria Clayton- Seahorses' TAs

