**Autumn Term – Stingray Parent Newsletter**

**‘***Growing and learning together with God’*

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome a new class of Stingrays back to school this term. We all hope you had a lovely, relaxing summer and that the children are well rested and ready for another hard working and exciting year of growing and learning together. We have certainly been impressed with their behaviour and attitude to learning so far.

We are glad to be able to relax some of our social distancing measures, such as sharing break times with other classes, returning to whole school collective worships and organising classroom tables in groups. We are continuing to ensure that classrooms are well ventilated and are encouraging good hygiene with regular hand washing; children are still welcome to bring anti-bac hand gel into school to keep in their bag to support this.

**Communications**

We are also glad to welcome parents back onto the playground at the end of the school day; we look forward to getting to know you all over the next few weeks. If you have individual concerns about your child or any other queries, please direct these to the office who will forward on your messages so that communication remains open through email, phone conversations and virtual meetings on Teams. Keep an eye on the weekly school newsletters to find out what we have been learning about each week; we will also be updating the Stingrays Class page on the website a couple of times each term with news and photos of our learning journey.

**Homework**

***Termly projects***

Project homework will continue to be set whereby children can choose from a variety of themes which projects they would like to complete; these will be shared with the class and children will receive feedback. Details about our ‘Water’ project options will be sent out on Friday 10th September.

 ***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 Thursdays we will check that children have accessed these sites for **a minimum of three times a week**. Spelling practise sheets will also be available in school if children do not have internet access at home. Bronze, Silver and Gold Maths quizzes will also be available each week on **Quiz Shed** for children to practise the topics learnt in weekly Math lessons.

*****Reading*** – Children should be encouraged to read nightly and where possible to an adult, even if they are a fluent reader. This could include your child just talking to you about what they’ve read, what they are enjoying etc. 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. We ask that they keep their reading books and reading records in their book bags at the moment and we will ensure that they are changed regularly.

We are also lucky to have a **Fonetti** subscription which also provide children with the opportunity to enjoy reading activities at home.

**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.

**Curriculum**

****Our main topic ***‘Drip!Drip!Drip!’*** is a **Science** and **Geography** based topic focusing on materials and their changing states. We will be learning all about the rivers in geography as well as developing our understanding of the water cycle and changing states of materials in Science. We will then go on to look at famous scientists and inventors. Most of our **English** work will be based on books set with a ‘watery theme’ and these will be the inspiration for our writing. We will look at the artist Katsushika Hokusai and use his artwork for to help us develop our sketching and painting skills.

In **RE** we will be learning about Christianity, considering what Christians learn from the Creation story and going on to think about what kind of world Jesus wanted. Our SCARF **PHSE** will focus on *Rights and Responsibilities* and *My Relationships*; we will also have weekly **Circle Time** sessions to support the children in developing positive self-esteem and interactions. In **French** we will be learning about **French** history, time travelling to find out about famous French places.

PE this term will be on **Tuesday** and **Friday** afternoons. 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 (navy tracksuit bottoms, sweatshirt etc.).The children will bring their PE kit home on every Friday, so 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.

We are so pleased to be back in school and are looking forward to the new term and the opportunities to learn together.

Kathryn Churchill, Caroline Blake – Class Teachers

Stacey Palmer, Liz Lyons, Kate O’Callaghan and Jade Winterbourne – Stingrays’ TAs