



Where every child counts

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Dear parents,

Welcome back after the Christmas break. I hope you and your family had a peaceful and enjoyable time together.

Class Novel

During the Spring term the class will be reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. I have about fifteen copies of the book but not enough for one per child. If you son or daughter have their own copy or copies could they please bring them in so that we can have one each.

Naming Clothes

Please can you make sure that all of your children's belongings are labelled with your child's name so that items can be returned easily if they are lost. We no longer have a lost property cupboard at the school so it is even more important that you have names in your child's clothes.

PE Kit

Please can the children not wear hooded tops for PE lessons as these are not suitable clothing due to health and safety reasons. Earrings needs to be removed before PE as well.

PE

During the Spring term, the children will have gymnastics on Monday afternoons in the hall until half term with our coach and on Wednesday we will be improving our hockey skills on the top playground. A tracksuit and a hat is also fine during the cold weather. After half term we will be completing fitness circuits for our indoor PE. The 15 minute run will continue on a Thursday morning but will be amalgamated with a Stormbreak activity.

Home Learning (not optional please)

Thankyou for the home learning over Christmas – the children made a genuine effort to complete 15 reads during the holidays. Thankyou for your support. I was also very pleased to see that so many children received books for Christmas as gifts.

The children will have homework as follows during the Spring term

- Five reading homeworks per week to be recorded in their reading journal with a parental signature(at the moment this is checked each Monday)

- Maths homework weekly from Mr Field linked to their targets and online homework using Mathletics.

Lateness and absense

School begins at 8.45. Please ensure that your child is on the playground before 8.45 so that they can come into registration without the anxiety and stress that is caused by being late. Important information is shared during registration and children who are late often miss out on things that they need to know.

Straight after registration we share our class novel - we are just finishing our current book and will be starting Harry Potter very soon. This is a lovely calm and enjoyable start to the day for the children and of course if they are late then they miss out on sharing the story and knowing what has happened.

The curriculum

Below are the subjects and topics we will be covering up until Easter. Our main topic is Mountains and will be making as many links as possible with this in literacy and other subjects.

English	The Wind in the Willows – character portraits and missing scenes Biographies – Frida Kahlo Mexican artist famous for self portraits Poetry of Ted Hughes and Micheal Rosen Leeson House – thank you letters and explanations
Geography	A mountain study – Mountains of the World and Ladakh in the Himalayas Physical Geography skills – reading maps, grid references and using atlases
RE	Sikhism – Christianity (Easter)
PE	Hockey and gymnastics and circuit training
ICT	Creating a multimedia presentation about a mountain range and Frida Kahlo collage
Art	Colour – colour mixing – portrait drawing and symbolism – watercolours, acrylics and collage
Music	Charanga scheme
Science	Earth in Space and Forces
PSHE	Setting goals – making choices, alcohol and tobacco
DT	Making Ladakhi food – Dorset Window pudding
French	French – plurals, adjectives, numbers to sixty, colours

I haven't included maths above as we will be covering the whole of the maths curriculum in each term each time at a harder level.

Leeson House residential visit

Leeson House is coming up very quickly and I hope all your children are as excited about it as I am. The dates are Monday 17th – Wednesday 19th March, We are not certain of staffing yet but there is a chance Mr Field and myself will be going plus Miss Bates. All the children are expected to attend the residential because we cover a huge amount of work in three days including geography, art, science and history, plus we use Leeson for follow up work in the weeks after we return. It's a fantastic place to visit and I will give a presentation about going in the next few weeks. If you have any concerns about financing the trip please speak to Lisa, Karen or Catherine in the office who will be able to help.

Please note that early in the Summer term we will also be visiting the Ancient Technology Centre at Cranborne for an extended day and this will cost about £20, if I can obtain sponsorship from a local charity.

As you can see we have a lot to fit in and the children will be very busy. They will have to work really hard but they will have a lot of fun and really enjoy school.

Book Donations and Recommendations

If you have any books that you think might be suitable for children in year 5 that you no longer read, then please send them in. I have a bookcase in my room for storing any books that are donated and each book will be stamped with the name of the child who made the donation.

Help Needed

We are visiting Sturminster library for an hour on 20th January from 11 until 12am. If you could help with walking the children to and from the library that would be much appreciated. Please can you let me or Miss Bates, myself or Ms Locke know if you can help please.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Hull and Papaphan Bates