

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely summer break with lots of fun, and are as excited as we are to start a new school year.

In the first term our topic is 'Things that Fly'. The children in Kingfisher Class will find out about an amazing variety of things that fly, including aircraft, seeds and creatures. During their investigations, the children will learn to carry out research, ask and write questions and present information. As you will see on the accompanying curriculum map we will be making cross-curricular links for much of the learning although some aspects of subjects such as RE and maths will be taught discretely to ensure coverage.

### Routine matters

**Mornings** - In Kingfisher Class we try to encourage the children to enter the classroom with a little more independence. We ask the children to be responsible for their coat, PE and book bags, lunchbox and water bottle.

Lessons begin at 8.45 and it is important that children don't miss out on learning. The school is open at 8.30 and many activities start at this time. We are always happy to speak to parents in the morning, although if there is something which requires a little more time, please arrange an after school meeting with the teacher concerned.

**Reading books** - The morning is a good time to change children's reading books, which are situated in the corridor, as often these are forgotten about at the end of the day.

**Water Bottles** - We encourage the children to drink water throughout the day and so their water bottles are kept in the classroom. These can be taken home each day, cleaned and refilled with fresh water. Please make sure your child's water bottle is named. Other drinks such as squash or juice **must** be kept for lunch time and kept in lunch boxes.

**PE** - Mr. Colbeck will be teaching PE to Y1 children on Tuesdays and Y2 children on Fridays. PE kit can be brought to school at the beginning of the week and will be sent home on Fridays. As always, please make sure all clothing and footwear is labelled with your child's name. Children should have plimsolls for indoor PE and a separate pair of trainers for outdoor use.

**Homework** - It is expected that children in Year 2 will complete a piece of homework each week. Children in Year 1 also benefit from continuing their learning at home, although these are optional activities for them. Maths homework will sometimes be provided online using MyMaths, a fun and interactive learning platform. Further details to follow. Homework will start after half-term.

**Groups** - This year, we have put the children into mixed-age 'home groups' to encourage making new friends. The children will work in different groups for English, maths and guided reading. As we get to know the children, we will review these and make changes where appropriate, so please don't be surprised if your child moves groups in the coming weeks.

**Reading** - The children will read in guided group sessions through the week, with individual reading taking place when appropriate. We have given each child a 'reading diary' where your children's reading sessions will be recorded each time. This book also allows parents to date when they have read with their child and add any comments for the teachers to see. We will also stick any small notes or messages in this book - so please check regularly.

**Word lists** - After half-term, the children will be given a weekly list of words to practise at home. These will be linked to our phonics learning and reinforced during the week, in a variety of ways. It is vital that you and your child take time to learn to read and write the words so they can become embedded into their phonic and literacy work, as this in turn will support their overall progress. There will also be an informal opportunity for your child to demonstrate their learning on Fridays.

**Invitations** - Throughout the year we aim to give context to our activities and make our learning purposeful. We love it when we are able to share what we have learnt and will invite you to join us when these opportunities arise. **If you have an area of expertise that you would like to share with or demonstrate to the class, please let one of the teachers know, as these occasions also help to bring learning to life.**

**Information** - Please make sure we have your latest emergency contact information including phone numbers, especially if you have moved house or changed jobs etc. We have an information board outside Kingfisher Class where you will find any letters and notices. We also have a weekly diary sheet where parents can write 'home time' arrangements.

Thank you

Miss Betts and Mrs Eland