

Welcome to Kestrel Class

Year Five



September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Kestrel Class and the start of another school year. I am very excited to welcome the children back as we adjust to 'a new normal' for everyone! Here are some pieces of information that I hope you will find useful to make you aware of class routines.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo will continue to be our points based rewards system that is being used within school. Children can earn points individually to earn rewards and within their table groups for a group reward at the end of the half term. Points will be awarded for attitude relating to Building Learning Power, achievement and for completion of homework. Points can be taken away for undesirable behaviour, late or incomplete homework or not being prepared for lessons e.g. no reading book/record. If you are not already a member of the class community, you will be sent an invitation to join Kestrel class. I would be grateful if you could sign up as soon as possible. The messaging feature will be a great tool for communication between home and school during this period of adjustment to 'a new normal'.

PE

Kestrel class will have 2 sessions of PE a week this year. PE lessons will take place every **Tuesday** and **Friday** afternoon. During this transitional period, children will be expected to come to school dressed in their PE kit on these days. Where possible, PE will be outdoors during the first half term. Please ensure your child is dressed accordingly. Long hair should be tied back and earrings should be removed, for health and safety reasons. If your child is unable to take part in PE due to a physical injury, please contact the school office. Trainers need to be in school **every day** as we will be taking part in the Golden Mile once again this year.

Reading

In Kestrel class, reading strategies are taught in the English lessons through shared and guided reading. Your child will read in a group every week and complete reading or writing activities to support this learning. As part of their homework we would like you to encourage your child to read independently at home. As your child is in Upper Key Stage 2, please try to encourage him/her to read for sustained periods of time- an average of 20 minutes, 3 times a week. It is important that the children try to read a variety of material, such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry and a range of more complex

short novels. It is not always necessary for your child to read aloud to another person; discussing the book after your child has finished reading will help you to check his/her comprehension of what has been read. Please sign and date your child's reading record after a reading session; **these will be collected on a daily basis to monitor your child's reading.** The children can then change their books as often as necessary. Once books are returned to school, they will be held in a safe zone for 72 hours before being released back into the general population of our school reading scheme.

Home Learning

Children will be set their home learning that corresponds with their current maths and spelling focuses. However, their topic home learning choice maps will be the same. All home learning will be handed out on a Thursday for children to stick into their home learning books. Children need to return their homework, via a photograph on ClassDojo where possible, by the following Wednesday. Please ensure that your children show pride in their presentation-this is a quality they should adhere to throughout their home learning, in line with the expectations of the school.

Topic- For each new topic, the children will be given a topic home learning map, which they can choose to complete tasks from, if they wish. These tasks will take the form of a variety of styles of learning including: research, writing, comprehension, art and much more. Please see the 'Tremors' Learning Grid that your child has been given for more details.

Maths- This will take the form of consolidation/ deepening understanding activities based upon your child's learning objectives from that week. In addition to this please remember that the key skills of mathematics should also be practised at home including times tables up to and including 12×12 . Your child has a login for TT Rockstars and this should be accessed as regularly as possible. Children will be tested at regular intervals on their times tables.

Spellings- It is vitally important that all children learn all of the spellings they are given and understand the meaning of these words. Children will be sent with word lists or spelling activities weekly.

Food Allergies/Medicine

Please be aware that our First Aid Staff are only permitted to administer medication if prescribed by a GP or hospital doctor. If your child does have any medication that needs to be taken or stored at school, please tell us and we can give you the appropriate forms to complete.

If you are worried or have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me either via Class Dojo or by requesting a telephone call back.

Mrs Lowe
Kestrel Class Teacher