

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and welcome to Elm Class 2021-2022! We hope that you have all had a restful summer break and have managed to enjoy some normality, now restrictions have begun to ease. Our aim this term is to welcome the children back into more normal school routines and make them feel excited and engaged within their learning along the way! They have settled in brilliantly this week, we are so proud of how they are already learning like 'Whizz' (ask your child more about this character!)

We will be thinking about all things 'magical' over the next few weeks, leading to our 'People and Places' topic...see our attached learning web for more detail. In Key Stage Two, we don't always link all learning to a themed topic. However, we do aim that all separate subjects are taught in a fun and meaningful way to aid understanding, as well as creating opportunities to apply their learning in different contexts.

### **What your child will need to bring to school**

**Weather appropriate clothing/accessories-** In the Autumn term, the weather can be very changeable! We do aim to make the most of the outdoors so children will need a coat and trainers in school each day. They can also bring a pair of wellies to keep in school and hats/scarves/gloves as the weather grows colder. Please ensure every item is labelled with your child's name, then we can reunite anything lost with its rightful owner! We will also make sure that the children have sun cream on for any hot days and will help apply throughout the day.

**PE Kit-** PE is on Wednesday afternoon, so your child will need full kit in school on this day. This consists of a white t-shirt, black shorts and trainers. Tracksuit bottoms can be worn as the weather grows colder.

**Reading record-** We will issue your child with a reading record and reading book this week. It is expected in Key Stage Two that children read at least 5 times a week and that this is documented in their Reading Record (yellow book) by an adult. We will also use these to communicate with you around your child's progress in reading. We will listen to your child read regularly throughout the week.

**Water bottle-** children can fill these up at the water fountain in school each day. We will send these home each night with your child, to be washed.

**An old, oversized t-shirt-** This is to pop on over their school uniform when we are doing 'messy work' in art. The bigger, the better as it will protect more clothing underneath! **Please could these be sent in by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September?**

## Homework

**Rainbow Reading-** Reading their reading book at least 5 times weekly (as explained above) makes up part of our expectation for Elm Class homework. This year, we are beginning a Rainbow Reading Challenge in which every child who reads at least 5 times a week at home across the half term, and has an adult document this in their Reading Record, will be awarded one of our 'Rainbow Reading' awards. Autumn 1 is the first badge, which is 'Red' and it will be possible to collect all 7 across the year; completing a reading challenge for the final badge, violet.

**Spelling-** We will also issue spelling key rings to each child, which have the statutory words that children need to be able to spell by the end of Year 4, attached. Practising these at home 2 or 3 times a week is also part of their homework. We will send a spelling practice activities menu with the keyring to give ideas of different ways to practice and apply these. We will track each child's progress in school and issue their next set of spelling words once the previous ones are learned by heart.

**Times Tables-** Learning times tables facts to 12 x 12 is a key part of the Year 3 and 4 maths curriculum, one that is tested at the end of year 4. To support quick recall of these key facts, each child has a login for Times Table Rock Stars, a programme that makes learning multiplication and division facts easy and fun! Your child will be issued with their log in to bring home next week- logging on at home 2 or 3 times a week really does make a difference!

We may also set little challenges or talk opportunities for home during the school week, which we will let you know about via Facebook, email or our school text system. These will be short, 'no resources needed' tasks. For example, this week we have been discussing and collecting colour words for different shades of the same colour. We will be asking pupils to talk to their adults and note down some examples to bring into school (e.g red- ruby, scarlet, crimson etc) and will pop a reminder on our Facebook page.

If you have any questions or would like more information or support, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mrs Howe, Mrs Hillman and Mrs Roche.