



Scotforth St Paul's C of E Primary & Nursery School

"Let faith be your shield"

Scotforth St Paul's Primary and Nursery School
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10th January 2022

Dear parents,

Welcome back to school after what we hope has been an enjoyable Christmas break. May we wish you all a Happy New Year and a special thank you for the many lovely gifts we received from the children at the end of term. We had a very busy and successful autumn term and we are sure the children will continue to put in the same effort and enthusiasm this term. The class made a great start to supporting the wider life of the school, for example during Open Day and in carrying out their various jobs, and we continue to encourage them in developing their resilience, independence and sense of responsibility as they prepare for their transition to high school.

Details of the curriculum we will be covering this term are to be found on the school website. PE will be on Mondays and Tuesdays this term – please make sure your child's PE kit is fully labelled and in school on these days. Some P.E. lessons will be outdoors as we prepare for sports tournaments later in the term, so please ensure your child has tracksuit bottoms and a jumper or hooded sweatshirt in school at all times.

Homework will continue to be set regularly in Year 6, as part of the children's preparations for moving on to high school, and the children are expected to record their homework tasks in their diaries. Weekly homework will be organised as follows:

- Spellings will be given out on a Friday to be tested the following Friday. These will be based on spelling rules and patterns this term, though will include words from the KS2 spelling lists when appropriate. Your child has been given their new individual targets for learning the KS2 spellings and are stuck in the front of your child's planner. These will be tested again just before the next parents' evening at the end of February.
- Grammar and punctuation challenges will be sent home on a weekly basis this term, in preparation for the SATs tests; they will be given out on a Friday, to be returned on the following Friday, when we will review them. These will either be a paper copy or digitally via Purple Mash depending on the work set.
- Maths homework, related to our work in class, will be set on Purple Mash each week (on a Wednesday). Paper-based activities may be set on occasions, when this is more appropriate. Much of what we are covering in maths is dependent on good knowledge of times tables and so we would encourage the children to continue to use the IT-based resource 'Hit the Button', an App which we the children are very familiar with, which not only reinforces tables knowledge but number bonds and related facts too.
- The children will be reading regularly in school and should be encouraged to do so daily at home too. We are continuing working on the Great Scotforth Karate Reading Challenge and are encouraging the children to read at home for 15 minutes or longer, with a parent signature next to the recording of this in their PALs. There will be specific reading homework linked to 'Goodnight Mr Tom' and 'The Railway Children'. Please continue to support your child with their reading, particularly through discussion, as even though many are now very competent readers it helps develop higher-level skills when discussing character, plots etc. Please refer to the Lancashire Reading Question Stems, which have been emailed to you. In school, we will be focussing on written comprehension skills as we lead into preparation for the SATs. We will sometimes ask the children to read a short text at home in preparation for these comprehension lessons.
- DT homework, related to our unit 'Great British Dishes' will be sent home throughout the first half term, on the weeks when we will not be cooking in school. Please support your child in safely following the recipes sent so they can prepare a national dish for the family meal at some point during the week. Photographs of different stages in the cooking progress are encouraged and if emailed to me, will be put on the blog to show the children's home learning.

We will be holding our next Parents' Afternoon/Evening just before the half term break, where Miss Huddleston will join us in preparation for after the holidays.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions in the meantime. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Parlane

