

**Class Ocean 2023-24
Newsletter & Notices**

**LOVE CHALLENGES, BE INTRIGUED
BY MISTAKES, ENJOY EFFORT
AND KEEP ON LEARNING.**

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds you well and welcome back! A mixed bag of emotions for you! Sad that your child is coming to the end of a chapter but also excited for the next part of their journey. It may be your first child in year 5 and it may be your last. Either or, we will work together to make sure their final year at Shelley is special, supportive and celebrates everyone. As a school, we have created fixed timetables to ensure time and resources are fully utilised. If anything should change, I will let you know. Here are just a few notices to help you with organising your weekly routines.

In year 5, our **PE slots will be Monday and Tuesday** after lunch and will therefore need our kits and appropriate footwear in school. If we have any additional sports coaches in school, I will endeavour to ask the office to inform you of these changes as soon as possible. If it is a week where we will have a lesson led by a coach, we will drop either the Monday or Tuesday session. I would advise that the children have access to their full kit in school all week in case there are additional sessions provided by outside agencies. Kits will be sent home for you every half term so you can wash them, if you wish to take them more frequently, feel free. Please can you ensure your child has suitable clothing for outdoors if the weather is still dry but a little colder and trainers. This will hopefully help provide support for transitions to middle school as I understand there are sanctions for missing kit. I will be working with the children to prepare them for middle school which will include steps to support them becoming more independent and responsible for their learning and belongings.

In Class Ocean we will **read every day** as it is vital to their progression in the whole of Literacy/ English. Children will read every day in guided reading sessions and will focus heavily on comprehension and focused reading skills when working with me. The school and I very much want to promote and create a love of reading. We have been reorganising the new library to have books that reflect the age and stage of each reader. This is currently having the finishing touches and I believe we will be sending out reading books in the second week. As the children get older and more confident in reading, it is easy to believe that they have accomplished this skill but the focus changes to their understanding of what they have read. They may not need to read with you but if you could have chats with them about their reading, that would be incredibly beneficial. The saying 'great readers make great writers' is very true so the more your child reads, the more confident they will be writing in class.

If you have any messages, you can email the office at office@shelleyfirstschool.co.uk and they will be forwarded directly to me. Alternatively, catch me in the morning or after school. I'm happy to arrange a meeting if you would like to discuss something in more detail and need more time. With the risk of sounding like a politician or a salesperson, I believe it's important that I pass on the same message to parents as I do to the children. I love being in the classroom and helping children experience success and that comes in any form from improving skills or developing confidence. We work together and we're a team. We may not always get it right, including me, but we're human and all of us are always learning. So if there is something you wish to discuss, **I want to reiterate my door is always open.**

Children will continue to have **homework** in Year 5 but it will no longer be a portfolio or a project. Homework set will be focused on a skill from the week of learning that needs to be practiced further such as maths or reading comprehension. It will always be something I have covered in class. Other homework will consist of reading at least twice a week at home, weekly spellings to learn with dictated sentences and times table practice.

Homework will be **collected in on a Thursday** to be reviewed. **New homework and spellings will be set on a Friday.** Spelling checks will also be on a Friday.

This year, I have PPA on a Thursday afternoon and will not be in class. It will continue to be Miss Wood teaching the children at this time which will provide great continuity and help keep things on track in year 5 and preparation for middle school. Together, we work really hard to plan for the children in a way that not only continues the work we are doing but will help the children stay in a routine. I also have leadership time for Maths during French on a Friday which is taught by Mrs Lambrou and bi-weekly for a short time on a Friday morning covered by Miss Wood.

We will always try to inform you of any changes or additions to our routines. This may be via text, email or letter. I hope these notices are helpful, please come and ask if I've left something out. I'm very excited for another great year at Shelley First School and trying to use my brain after maternity leave. I always aim to have smiley children who have had fun with their learning and understand effort is the path to success. Please come find me if you have any questions and I'll do my very best to help.

Here's to a fantastic, successful last year and with kind regards,
Mrs Elspeth Tedder (formally Dempster and still getting used to it!)