

Dear Parents/Carers,

We welcome you back to the start of an exciting Spring term; we hope that you have had a good start to the New Year. Our working pattern will be as follows

Monday and Tuesday: Mrs Burbidge

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Mrs Richards

We appreciate that any change of staffing mid-year can be a challenge for children, but we will endeavour to make the transition as smooth as possible. Do please contact us with any concerns.

On PE days, which for us will be a Tuesday and Thursday, we would like the children to come to school in the correct PE kit for our outdoor sessions and the children will stay in their PE kit all day. Please note that as part of the school's PE policy, earrings and other jewellery must not be worn or be covered if it cannot be removed. As the weather is now colder, please can you make sure that your child has a jumper and jogging bottoms if required.

In year 5, we expect the children to read at least 4 times a week and to fill in their reading record independently, thereby encouraging them to become responsible for their own learning; reading books and records should come into school and be taken home everyday. These will be checked on a Monday. They need to write a brief summary of what they have read in order to help us to assess their understanding. It is very important that the children read to, and discuss their book with an adult at least twice a week. This helps to develop their comprehension skills. The children will receive reading rewards for each week that they read 4 or more times.

We would like the children to Doodle maths at least 4 times a week. We have seen a real impact when children regularly use this program and it is automatically adjusted to meet your children's specific areas of learning, filling in gaps and helping to consolidate new areas of learning. Doodle will be checked on a Friday and 5 dojos awarded to those who have completed it 4 times during the week. It is really important that you don't help your child to answer the questions (although sitting alongside them to provide encouragement and reminding them to use the help button can be really helpful.)

If you do not have access to a device that can use doodle, please contact school and we will arrange for your child to be able to complete doodle during break or lunch-time.

There is an expectation by year 5 that children should know all their times tables up to 12 x 12 and this becomes so important in all aspects of maths. If your child is not confident in their tables then there are many interactive games, such as Hit the Button, that can help, as well as doodle tables.

We are also pleased to tell you that year 5 will soon have access to doodle spell. Again this will automatically work out the words that your child needs to work on and give them individual practice to improve their spelling skills. More details will follow shortly.

Please don't hesitate to come in and speak to us about any issues. Our door is always open. Thank you for your continued support.  
Mrs Richards and Mrs Burbidge