



6th September 2021

Dear parents and carers of Honeysuckles class,

I am delighted to be writing my first newsletter to you as your child's class teacher. I hope that you and your children have had a lovely summer and that you are all ready and raring to go for the new school year ahead! Let's hope that this will be a more settled year, with less disruption than schools have experienced in recent times.

However, I am very disappointed to report that I won't be in class until Thursday as I have to self-isolate.

I am very much looking forward to meeting the children then, all being well.

Mr Skuse and Mrs Purdy will be teaching the children for those first couple of days.

Mrs Southworth will be in class with us on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Johnson will be with us on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week.

I would like to share with you some information that you may find useful, about the school year.



### English and Maths

In our first week back, we will be studying a picture book unit to get us back in to learning, like we did when we returned to school after the most recent lockdown. We will do lots of English and PSHE work based around this book. For the rest of the term/school year, a lot of our English lessons will be topic themed, particularly our non-fiction units.

We will begin our maths lessons in the first week of term, following the White Rose scheme. Over the course of the school year, children will be encouraged to log on to TT Rockstars to help them to learn their times tables or to keep working on their speed of recall of the tables. Further information will be provided about TT Rockstars in the first few days of term. All Year 4 children in our class will be taking part in the National Multiplication Check, more information to follow soon.

### Topic

We will begin our first topic 'Ancient Civilisations' in the second week back, beginning with a Wow day on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Accompanying this newsletter is a knowledge organiser about the topic, which you can read with your child, to find out



what we are going to be learning about over the course of the term. Also accompanying the newsletter is a home learning guide, which contains some suggested activities that your child can do at home. Any work done can be returned to school on the last Monday of term so that we can look at it over the course of the week.

On our wow day we will be looking at lots of different art work linked to three of the World's first civilisations that we will be learning about: Ancient Sumer, Ancient Egypt and the Indus Valley. Please can you bring in a butter or margarine plastic tub/ container and it would be fantastic if you could come to school dressed as an Ancient Egyptian.

### Other subjects

This year Honeysuckles class will be taught by Mrs Purdy on Tuesday afternoons when I will be out of class. She will be teaching RE and German.

### PE

Your child will need to come in to school in their PE kit on Monday and Wednesday each week. Please could their kit be in line with our uniform policy, which is a plain white t-shirt or polo shirt, plain black shorts, plain black jogging bottoms and trainers. It may be a good idea for anyone with pierced ears to leave their earrings out on PE days to save them having to take them out, or if your child struggles to remove their earrings, they can tape them over (tape will not be provided by school).

We will also be going swimming on Thursday mornings for half of the school year, starting this term. Our exact start date has yet to be confirmed, and as soon as we have it I will let you know, so that you know when to send your children in with their swimming kit!

### Wopps (wider opportunities)

In the second half of the school year, the year 4s will be given an opportunity to play a string instrument in a lesson on Thursday afternoons. This will begin in February.

### Homework

Homework will be given out on a Friday and will be due in on the following Thursday, when children will bring their homework books in to school for their work to be marked. Children will be provided with maths homework, spelling homework and they will also be expected to read at least five times a week, and for their reading to be recorded in their reading record.

### Reading

Your child will be provided with a reading book in line with their reading age, which will be given to them as early as possible in the first week of term. In class, children will have access to books off our reading shelves as well as library books (library won't be running as normal at first, but we will make sure library books are brought in to the classroom for the children to access) and we will also have our 50



Reads Challenge books in our reading treasure chest. These books are specific to Y4 or Y5, and the children are encouraged to read as many, ideally all, of the books during their time in Y4 or 5. It is essential that those children who are free readers are reading books that are challenging enough for their age, and that they are accessing a wide range of genres and authors, and the 50 Reads Challenge is perfect for this! Further information about this challenge, as well as a book list, will be provided in the first few days of term.

I hope that you have found this information useful, and I look forward to getting to know you and to meeting you all over the coming weeks and months. If you ever need to contact me, please don't hesitate, you can phone school or can email me directly on [honeysuckle@st-james.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:honeysuckle@st-james.derbyshire.sch.uk)

I apologise again for not being in school for the first few days.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Collins