



6th September 2021

Dear parents and carers of Tulip class,

We are very excited to be writing our first newsletter to you as your child's class teacher. We both hope that you all managed to have a brilliant summer holiday and your child is as excited as we are about the new school year!

We are extremely lucky to have lots of adults in our class this year, as well as us (Mrs Mackey and Mr Ford) we have Mr Doyle and Mrs Budgen supporting the learning in the classroom. Please continue to read below for some additional information about the year ahead.



English and maths

During our first week back, Tulip class will be completing work around a brilliant book called 'Mr Pusskins', this book will include lots of English and PSHE activities and will help us to get back into the swing of learning. For the rest of the term, our English lessons will be based around our topic – Potions. We will be looking at lots of different genres and reading lots of fantastic books! We will begin our maths lessons in the first week of term, following the White Rose scheme – our first unit will be Place Value. We will be encouraging all the children in our class to log on to TT Rockstars to help them to learn their times 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 'Potions' in the second week back, beginning with a wow day on Monday 13th September. Accompanying the newsletter is a home learning guide, which contains some suggested activities that your child can do at home. Any work completed can be returned to school on the last Monday of term so that we can look at it over the course of the week – we really do enjoy seeing the topic homework sent into school. On Monday 13th, for our wow day, we would love your child to be dressed up as a mad professor or scientist! I wonder how many Albert Einsteins we will see ...



Other subjects

PE

Your child will need to come in to school in their PE kit on Thursday and Friday 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).

Modern Foreign Languages



This year your child will be learning German, we will be looking at German culture, as well as learning how to write and say key words and phrases.

PSHE

We will be following Derbyshire's recommended scheme of PSHE Matters. Throughout the year, we will be looking at friendships, money, relationships, keeping mentally and physically healthy as well as taking responsibility and exploring emotions.

RE

We will be following the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for RE and also the diocese-recommended scheme 'Understanding Christianity'. We will also be exploring special days, festivals and significant people during our lessons and daily collective worship in class.

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 from 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 Y3 and Y4, and the children are encouraged to read as many, ideally all, of the books during their time in Y3 or Y4. These books are in addition to the 'normal' school reading book. It is essential that all children 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.



We hope that you have found this information useful, and look forward to getting to know you and to meeting you all over the coming weeks and months. If you ever need to contact us, please don't hesitate, you can phone school or can email us directly on tulip@st-james.derbyshire.sch.uk

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Mackey and Mr Ford

