

Information Letter for Bowldown Class- September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new year for your child in Bowldown Class. I am especially excited to welcome Year 1 into their new classroom and am very lucky to have taught Year 2 last term. I am really pleased to be teaching the class and look forward to getting to know you and your children better. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new class topic and to go through some of the daily routines in Bowldown class.

The topic for this term will be entitled 'Dinosaur Roar.' The children will be taking part in many scientific investigations to find out more about how dinosaurs were discovered, what different dinosaurs eat, their habitats and their skeletons. The children will be encouraged to ask questions about the prehistoric past and will be thinking about the changes that have been made over time. We will be working as archaeologists to discover our very own fossils and will make careful observations.

If anyone has any experience, specialist knowledge or resources at home that you would be willing to share with the class, please come and see me. You will find a topic plan attached, outlining what we will be learning this term in more detail.

Weekly routines and addition information:

Equipment needed:

P.E bags - PE kits need to be in school every day. The children will be taught games on Wednesday mornings with Mr Yolland-Jones and core skills on another afternoon. Please can you make sure that the children come in with a full school PE kit (with every item labelled with their name), white t-shirt, navy shorts and trainers (with a red hoody and navy jogging bottoms for colder weather). The P.E kits will be sent home every half term to be washed.

Book bags - Children also need their book bag- containing their school reading book, sharing/school library book, reading record and home learning book every day.

Pencil case - Children in Key Stage 1 do not need to bring a pencil case to school as we provide all the equipment they need.

Lunch box- children in Key Stage 1 are entitled to free school dinners but if your child brings a packed lunch instead this will go on the lunchbox store in the cloakroom.

Water bottle - All children should have a named water bottle in school each day to enable them to be able to easily have a drink throughout the day. Please provide a named bottle for this purpose.

Healthy snack (for break) - Children in Key Stage 1 are provided with free fruit at break times, although, if you wish to provide an alternative healthy snack, please send this in a named container.

The children will be provided with a home learning book. This will give you further information about what they have been learning in class and activities which can be carried out at home to build on class work. Keeping the home learning book in their book bag will help with communication about your child's learning.

Regular reading is crucial in helping your child do well as they move through school. We encourage children to use their learning through 'phonics' to help them to read the school books sent home. The children will be heard read at least once a week in school, and this will be a combination of individual reading, reading groups or through other reading activities. Having books and reading records in school every day, as part of the children's routine, is vital. Children may also choose a book from the wider range in the classroom or from the school library to take home with them to share with you. The children's school reading books will be changed as necessary, with the children learning the systems for changing books to enable them to make choices within the colour band they are currently working in.

To encourage regular reading, children will have the chance to earn a 'A Star Readers Activity Treat' – this is a reward afternoon activity. If children have 5 records of home reading in their reading record a week, they will receive 30 minutes of reward activity time. Children will receive a sticker in their reading record to mark each week they are successful and a chart in class will record their progress over the term. Please ensure your child clearly records their reading in their reading record with the date and that it is signed- the records will be checked each week. As well as reading their school reading books, any other reading counts: comics, letters, recipes, magazines, games involving reading so all of these can be recorded.

-Phonics/Spelling- Your child will have the sounds and key words that we are looking at in class recorded in their home learning books. There will be mini-spelling tests as sentence writing activities each week, to practise what has been learnt over the week and to recap learning from earlier weeks.

- Maths- In their home learning books, we will inform you of our maths learning in class and your child will have a small number of 'Learn its facts' to practise at home to increase their speed of recall. There may also be maths related activities for them to explore at home.

-Topic- Our learning during a term will be linked around a central theme. There will be three main topics over the year, with all curriculum areas being covered. Topic webs will be sent out near the beginning of each term and during each new topic there will be topic homework with a range of activities for your child to choose from.

Lastly, it is lovely to hear about the achievements of your child outside of school and so I have attached some 'Proud Clouds' to this letter. If your child has done something to be proud of, for example: reading at home, riding a bicycle or being very kind to a friend, it would be lovely if you could complete a 'Proud Cloud' for your child to bring to school, this will be put on a whole class display for everyone to see and celebrate.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any other questions or you would like more explanation, then please let us know.

Yours sincerely Mrs Pocock and Mrs Jenkins.