



KESTREL NEWS

NO:2

Dear Parents

I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas break and wish you a very happy and healthy new year. The Kestrel team and I were overwhelmed by your generosity and send our thanks for the many the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts that we received.

During our second term, the learning will have a heavy focus on history - both ancient and more modern. Our topic, **Rock On**, will involve learning about the development and impact of popular culture and music on our society from 1940 to 1990. The children are invited to bring in any items that your family may have from this era. If any of you have any special interest in this period, which you would be willing to share with the Kestrels, please let me know. The second strand of the topic **Rock On**, concerns prehistoric Britain c900,000 BCE to the Roman Invasion in c53BCE.

As usual, literacy learning will be within the topic wherever possible, beginning with biographies and autobiographies. We will continue to improve our presentation skills, spelling and to expand upon our knowledge of English grammar. In maths our learning begins with consolidating and expanding knowledge and skills in the four mathematical operations. We will go on to learn and practise selecting appropriate methods for calculation real life situations.

Our P.E. for this term will be all weather outdoor (whenever possible) games, for which the Kestrels need a warm tracksuit, trainers and a small towel. For gymnastics and dance the kit is a t-shirt and shorts. These lessons will usually take place on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, when earrings should be removed and long hair tied back.

Please remind your child to bring their named water bottle with sports cap to school daily together with the usual healthy snack for morning break.

For those students continuing brass instruction, Mr Rowe will continue teaching on Mondays.

Daily reading with your child remains an easy, pleasurable and vital part of home learning for year five pupils and is a great habit for children of this age to develop in preparation for access to their future learning and GCSE study. The children should discuss their reading as often as possible. Reading for understanding can only be gauged by talking about what a child has read, as some children may be very competent de-coders yet may not understand all levels of meaning in what they have de-coded.

A high level of importance remains on knowing times tables and related division facts to 12 times 12 fluently. One way to find out how fluently someone knows their tables is to give them a number (e.g. 42) and ask them to give the corresponding times table (6x7 or 7x6). Can you beat your child in a *Times-Tables-Off?!*

As we continue to foster and build upon their independence, please talk to your child first for any clarification. My expectation is that each student takes responsibility for being prepared for their learning each day and this is an area of learning that will be evaluated over the year. The weekly timetable attached should help in supporting this.

Weekly comprehension homework will continue to be set on Thursdays with a deadline of the following Thursday. The answers should be as detailed as possible, in full stand-alone sentences and neat, joined handwriting. Spellings will still be set on Wednesday to be assessed the following Wednesday, book club reading will be set on Fridays and noted in homework diaries. Specified text should be read and reread and the book brought to school for discussions on Fridays. Maths homework will continue to be set on Fridays - due the following Monday.

Thank you for keeping me well informed about your child in terms of their wellbeing during our first term together. I am very keen for this communication to continue. The wellbeing of an individual needs to be in place for progress at school to be optimised. Please write, telephone or make an appointment to see me if there are any issues, as this will assist me in supporting your child's learning. Feel free to use the class email, which is checked every 48hours, for non-urgent communication. An *end of day arrangements form* should be completed if there are any changes to the arrangements from last term. If changes need to be made in the future, please send a note or request another via your child.

Thank you again to those of you who have joined us in our learning on a regular basis or odd occasions. You really have enriched the learning experiences of the class. If you (Aunts, Uncles or Grandparents) are able to spare any time to help with hearing reading during the school day please contact me to make arrangements. Regular volunteers, occasional or a one off session are all greatly appreciated and very welcome.

Usual Weekly timetable

Mon	Maths.	Grammar Punctuation	Topic	Art
Tue	Maths	Comprehension Handwriting	French	P.E.
Wed	Maths	Spelling	Computing	R.E.
Thur	Writing	Maths Topic	P.E.	Music
Fri	Maths	Reading Relay	Science Dance	

Thank you for your continuing support.

Mrs Brandon