

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH SCHOOL
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Head Teacher:
Mr K Atkins

28 September 2018

Dear Cary Class parents,

I hope your child is settling into Cary Class well, I am enjoying getting to know them and helping them in their learning.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of some of the things that happen in Cary and when they happen so that you can discuss them with your child and be more informed about their day at school.

Firstly, you can follow what is happening in class through our Twitter page. You can subscribe to this for free and then search for @CaryClass to follow us. I try to post something most days: this includes photos of work, activities involving the children and small video clips. There is also a main school page, @StAndrewTaunton which you can also follow.

We are lucky enough to have the excellent support of Mrs Rushen and Mrs Thomas who will be supporting the children and myself in class. Mrs Barmby-King will teach the class on some Wednesdays whilst I carry out my role as the Key Stage One Co-ordinator.

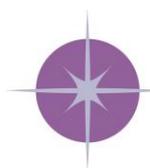
We have PE on a Wednesday afternoon and a Friday morning. Please ensure that your child's PE bag stays in school on their peg at all times. It will be sent home for a wash each half-term holiday. Please ensure that all PE kit and school uniform is named so we can reunite it with the correct children!

Reminder ~ the mid-morning drink and snack should be fresh or dried fruit only and is named or in a named pot – it is helpful if it is cut at home so that it can be eaten easily. Likewise, please could you label drinks bottles and not send in any glass bottles or fizzy drinks. These should be placed in the basket in the classroom. We are part of a scheme providing free fruit which we have during the afternoon.

Your child will continue to spend time with adults discussing and reading books several times during the week ~ please ensure their reading record and book come into school every day. It is very important for you to share their books with them whenever possible. Please sign the Yellow Record Book and make any comments about their enjoyment, ability to read etc.

They also have weekly homework which will be sent home on a Friday and will be due back by the following Wednesday ~ please place it in the purple filing tray in class for marking. **It is expected that all children complete this.** I try to vary the content of each homework set and make it as open-ended as possible so that you can be guided by the interest and enthusiasm of your child. The expectations set within each task are the minimum expected and you can extend this as much as you wish within reason! More information regarding this can be found in the front of their purple homework book.

3 Minute Maths ~ An important part of the children's development in Numeracy is the capacity to recall number facts quickly. To support them with developing this, we undertake 3 Minute Maths every Monday to Thursday. Each day, the children are required to answer as many questions as they can in the time given with the maximum being 25. The aim is for them to get 95 or more to progress onto the next sheet. It is not expected that



BATH & WELLS
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'That they may have life, life in all its fullness' John 10:10

they move from sheet to sheet every week but do their best to improve upon their own individual score every week. As well as incorrect calculations being marked incorrect, so too will those where the numeral is written incorrectly! The children will all start at sheet 1 and the sheets get progressively more challenging ~ watch out for sheets 4 and 8 as they are require a little more thought! The sheet that your child has just completed will get sent home at the end of the week if they have not achieved 95+ to give them the opportunity to practise any which are incorrect ready for the next week. If the children achieve 95+ this will be stuck in to their Maths book as a record of progress and if they get 100/100, they will be awarded a certificate in assembly. As we tend to do this first thing in the morning, any children who are late into school will miss this opportunity, therefore it is crucial that they arrive in school on time. This process has made a noticeable improvement to the speed and accuracy within our Numeracy lessons over previous years and feedback from the parents and children has indicated that the children enjoyed doing this. If you have any concerns or questions regarding this at any time please come and speak to me.

Spellings ~ Last year, I introduced a new approach to learning spellings which was shown to improve the children's application of what they have learned within their everyday writing. It will follow a similar structure to 3 Minute Maths in that the children will need to achieve a certain score in order to move on to the next level. There will be further details coming home regarding this. Again, it is important that they practise their spellings at home to support the strategies we have in place in school.

This term, the children will develop their knowledge and understanding of 'The Great Fire of London.' This will include finding out about the cause of the fire and the events surrounding it. We will also learn about how information regarding historical events is shared so that we can use this information today. The children will learn about fire safety and I hope to arrange for the Fire Brigade to come in and talk to them.

In Science, we will identify and classify materials, considering how the materials used were part of the cause of the fire spreading and how this has impacted upon how houses are built today and the materials used. In PE they will consider how they move and control their movements to enable them to play team games and observe the changes that occur to their bodies during exercise. We will also be carrying out Yoga to improve control and improve concentration. In Art we will also be colour mixing paint and other media to produce scenes of the Great Fire of London. This will then feed into our ICT work where we will try to recreate a similar scene using the computers.

The internet will be an invaluable resource for researching about the Great Fire of London. We will also be making full use of our ICT facilities to support **all** areas of our learning over the year, such as making videos and using apps on the iPad!

From half term, any offers of help in class will be gratefully received whether on a regular basis or on a more ad hoc basis. Even if it is for 20 minutes at the end of the day to hear readers ~ this is so beneficial to the children. Helpers do need to undertake a DBS check to be able to help. Please speak to a member of the office staff about this.

There will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and any other issues at a Parent Consultation later this term but obviously if you have any queries or concerns before then, do not hesitate to come and see me.

Yours sincerely



Kaye Frounks
Cary Class Teacher