



Morchard Bishop CE (V.A.) Primary School

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Head Teacher - Mr Chris Sargeant

Wednesday 19th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year and Year 4. After a couple of weeks back in, the class has settled really well and we are all getting used to the new set-up. Many things are being run in an identical way to last year, but other things are slightly different.

First of all, here is a timetable of who is teaching your child during the week:

| | Before play | After play | After lunch 1 | After lunch 2 |
|-----------|-------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Monday | Mrs Arnold | Mrs Jones | Mrs Arnold | |
| Tuesday | Mrs Jones | Mrs Arnold | Mrs Griffiths | |
| Wednesday | Mrs Jones | Mrs Arnold | Mrs Arnold | |
| Thursday | Mrs Jones | Mrs Arnold | Mrs Griffiths | |
| Friday | Mrs Arnold | Mrs Jones | Mrs Griffiths | |

As you will notice – and hopefully your child will have mentioned it – Mrs Jones is teaching them again and, as English subject leader, she will be in charge of teaching the English to the class. Individual weekly spellings will be given out in homework books on a Tuesday and these will be tested the on the following Tuesday. Mrs Arnold will continue to teach the class Mathematics and homework for that will be set on a Friday and checked the following Friday.

During the morning lessons, the class are being joined by some of the Year 3 children but in the afternoon lessons, it reverts to solely the Year 4 children.

As has been the case previously, Book Bags are stored in boxes around the classroom during lesson times, but they are still expected to bring them in and take them home every day. It is not a good idea to store fruit for morning snack in there, as the boxes are rather full and the food is likely to get squashed.

English:

English lessons will be take place daily, focussing on grammar, spelling, handwriting and construction of different text types. The children will be given written homework that should last only 20 mins per week and spellings to be learnt on a weekly basis – often linked. In addition, each child needs to be reading several times a week to an adult at home, who then signs their Reading Diary to confirm this. They will also be heard in a group as part of the Guided Reading system, approximately once a week. They need to have their book-bag, containing their reading book, their reading diary and their homework diary in school **every day** please.

Maths: Maths lessons will also take place on a daily basis. Each child will have times tables that they are working on and in addition, they will have **My Maths** homework. I am aware that sometimes you may struggle to get access to the internet at home, so please come and speak to me if this is the case. I am sure we can work something out. If they do not complete it at home, they will be expected to spend a lunch time working on the laptops to complete it. In addition, the children will be given half-termly objective to work on, called Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRF's) to aid their mental skills.

The Class topic this term is **The History of Farming**, which will draw on some of the previous history topics (Romans / Vikings) then move quickly through the middle-ages and onto Twentieth Century changes. This will feed into a topic on the centenary of **World War One** for the 2nd half of term. We will be looking at how farming changed locally as a direct result of the men having to go to fight for our country. We will, of course, be sensitive about the effects of war on those who fought, but if you have any family history that is appropriate for this age range, please talk to your child so that they can understand the drastic impact it had on people's lives. We have 2 trips this term to support their learning.

Science: We will cover 2 aspects this term, looking at **Solids, Liquids and Gases** and how they can change their state, followed by learning about different kinds of **Rocks**.

French:
Mrs Griffiths will teach the French, learning the vocabulary related to farms.

Music and Drama:
Mrs Arnold is teaching the class music lessons this year and Ms Oliver will continue to teach them Drama.

PE:
We are continuing to make use of the Saints South West Coach, who will be working on **Invasion Games**, specifically Tag Rugby skills. Your child will need **blue shorts, yellow t-shirt** for these Wednesday sessions, although once the weather deteriorates, long trousers and a warm jumper are accepted as we will try to continue outside, whatever the weather. If your child has studded boots, they are allowed to wear them for these outside lessons (although they are not obligatory) but we would also request that they have a **pair of trainers** in school just in case it is too wet. It is also sensible to have some spare socks and a sturdy bag to keep muddy boots in please.
On Friday afternoon, they will have **Dance** with Karina once again, and will require blue shorts and yellow t-shirts.

Please ensure EVERYTHING is named – including shoes.

RE: Mrs Griffiths is again teaching **Understanding Christianity** focussing on Creation and Fall and the question '**What do Christians learn from the creation story?**'

The Big Question: Can *kindness* change the world?

ICT: Mrs Arnold will be teaching this and we will again focus on internet safety this term, moving on to more programming work.

Throughout all of this, we are challenging the children across the school to consider what makes a good learner and how we can improve our **Growth Mindset** to facilitate this. This all links in with the state of our mental health, which affects our ability to learn, so we are introducing ways to organise ourselves to help us become better learners. Please talk to us if you would like more information on these initiatives.

We are always delighted to see what the children have been doing at home to assist their school learning, so if you are able take them to the library, or support their curiosity in any way, we would like to see the outcomes.

If you would be able and willing to come and help in any way with the class, whether it be hearing children read, helping with maths or working in more creative activities, please see one of us.

Rachel Arnold

Amber Griffiths

Hilary Jones