Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Autumn term!

We’re already 3 weeks in and Buzzard Class have settled back in beautifully and enjoyed their ‘National Park Swap’ in The Broads. Somerleyton School will be joining us for a few days form the 26th - 28th September to see how at the South Downs compares to their location

I will be teaching Buzzard Class every morning when our focus will be Reading, Writing and Maths. Mr. Gatrell will be working with us every morning as our TA.

Mrs. Brownbill will take Buzzards on Monday and Friday afternoons for Science and some foundation subjects and PE. On a Tuesday afternoon Mr. Gatrell will be leading Bury Rangers. I will be teaching on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon and will mostly cover History and Art.

In English, we will be basing our work on the Anglo- Saxon poem Beowulf and then Odd and the Frost Giants by Neil Gaiman. Please don’t run out and buy them until we have finished the unit though – I need to keep them in suspense until the end! We will also be reading some of the Norse myths and it would be very helpful if you wanted to read some of these with your child.

Our spellings will be introduced on a Monday and we will focus on a pattern each week. The children will be asked to find it in their reading, use it in their writing and look at the root words within as well. Please make sure that your child plays spelling shed several times a week at home as this will really improve their fluency and confidence.

Our key ‘home learning’ from now will be reading. We ask you to hear your child read 5 times a week. I know how difficult this is – but there are often little slots of time when they can read to you – while you are cooking/ironing/ washing up or of course snuggled on the sofa or in bed. When children get to year 5 and 6, they often prefer to read to themselves, we of course we encourage, but reading to an adult helps them in so many ways. You can pick up incorrect pronunciation, question their understanding, discuss the story. Please record this in the yellow Reading Diary. We will be taking these diaries in every so often to check that they are indeed reading to adults.

In Maths we will continue to cover the year 5 and 6 curriculum and will be incorporating regular investigations and problem solving. The new curriculum tells us that our children should know all (up to 12) of their times tables by the end of Year 4, and so we really want them to be confident and fast at recall of these. Please make sure your child plays on the ‘studio’ part of Times Tables Rock Stars several times a week – the more regularly they play, the better they will get.

Over the course of this year, your child may be asked to take part in some ‘Third Space’ additional maths sessions. These a booster classes that take 45 minutes and focus on specific areas that need to be improved upon. Generally, the child will spend a few weeks on the course, overseen by Mr.Gatrell, and will then not need it any more. The sessions are run by a qualified teacher and they will be completed on a laptop at the very start of school on a Monday .

Initially, we will be studying a unit called ‘Poppies’, which is based upon the centenary of the end of the First World War. We would love you to join us on 25th September at the village hall from 10am to make a ceramic poppy for a fallen serviceman. These will be displayed around the war memorial and then available to purchase to raise money for both the British Legion and for school.

Our main History this term will be Anglo- Saxon and Viking Invaders and we will be going to experience Anglo Saxon life at Butser Ancient Farm near Petersfield on 20st November. More information will follow.

In Science they will be covering Light.

Although Bury Rangers will happen every Tuesday afternoon, your child will need wellingtons and Bury Rangers clothes in school every day as we may use the woodland at any time.

Please ensure your child’s PE kit is in school EVERY DAY, although they are timetabled to have PE on Friday, we will be doing it at other times too.

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in the classroom everyday – they are emptied at night, so don’t need to take them home until a Friday. They will need an additional water bottle in their lunchbox if they are having packed lunch.

We are continuing to use the Good to be Green behaviour system and Class Dojo to reward children for demonstrating both our school and Christian values. In the Good to be Green system, if a child makes a wrong choice we will give 2 verbal warnings – being specific about which rule has been broken- then a yellow card. If a child receives a yellow card then they will have to miss some of the net playtime to complete a reflection sheet with an adult. If the child continues to break the rules or is violent, then a red card will be given. This means that the child will be spoken to be Mr. Moore and you will be called to discuss the behaviour.

Year 6 children will be completing their SATs in May and we will be talking to you and them about preparing for these later in the year. If you would like to spend some extra time at home before then preparing for the tests, then the CGP books are really useful and can be bought cheaply on Amazon. There are both revision and work books.

As always, if you need to speak to me, please pop in or ask Mrs. Clark for an appointment - the sooner little worries are sorted out the better!

Many thanks,

Laura Braun