



**GRETTON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**Gretton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL54 5EY
Telephone: 01242 602679**

**admin@gretton.gloucs.sch.uk
www.gretton.gloucs.sch.uk**

Headteacher: Mr Adam Sallis MEd, NASEN, NPQH

Friday 8th September 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I hope you have all had a fantastic summer break and are feeling well-refreshed and raring to go for another busy year. A huge welcome to our newcomers to Owls Class and a welcome back to those of you who were with us last year.

I would just like to go through a few of our class routines - some of which may be familiar if your child was with us last year but there are a few important and new things too.

Class Meeting:

We would like to invite you to a short after-school class meeting next Wednesday (September 13th). This will be an opportunity to go through some of the important information for the year ahead. On the day, we will send children down to you on the playground but you may bring them back up for the meeting - it may be useful for them to hear the information too!

I do understand that not everyone will be able to make it - if you cannot make it, but would like to speak to me another time, I will try to accommodate this.

Staffing:

Mrs Fowler will continue as my teaching assistant for next year and we will also be joined by Mrs Phillips before break-time to provide additional support. I will continue to work Monday - Thursday with Mr Sallis taking the class on Friday mornings and Mrs Sollis taking the class on Friday afternoons for Forest School (see below for more details).

'Topic':

We have decided not to base our learning around a 'topic' for this year though there will still be some links between subjects. We will still be providing the same broad and balanced curriculum but it will give us more freedom to explore different genres of writing and a wider range of areas of interest. You will find attached a curriculum web, which will give you an outline of some of the things we will be covering in the first term.

If children have any items they would like to bring in for show and tell, this would be welcomed. However, they should be related to what we have been learning about. We would also request that the children have done a little research about the item they are showing and can talk about it rather than just showing and that they keep to one item per term to ensure fairness - choose carefully!

Key experiences (including Forest School):

In order to link in with our History work where we are studying about the changes from the Stone

Legal Information:
Gretton Primary School is a
company limited by
guarantee.
Company number:7836684

- Iron Age, we are planning a walk up to Belas Knap - a local, Neolithic burial site. Details of this trip once confirmed will be sent out in a separate letter.

We will also be having a six week Forest School block this half term on Friday afternoons which will commence from next Friday (15th September) and continue up until half term. Mrs Wycherley will lead these sessions with Mrs Sollis accompanying her as class teacher.

Break times:

Please ensure your child has a healthy snack for morning and for afternoon break if they wish, which they will take out to eat at break time each day. There is a space just outside the classroom for water bottles and we encourage the children to take drinks at break times.

Reading:

It is extremely important children are reading books which are matched to their individual level of competency and as such we have banded the books in the classroom so that children can read fluently and with understanding. Whilst we welcome them exploring books outside of school, we would prefer they stick to these books in school (they can borrow them to read each evening). These books do not belong to a scheme, so even within their banding may vary in difficulty. We would appreciate your support in keeping an eye on what your child is reading ensuring they can read it fluently (they should only need help with odd words rather than one or two per sentence) and have an overall understanding of what is happening.

Children will also be given one book per week from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme which we follow. These are matched to your child's current reading level and we encourage these to be read with parents with lots of discussion and questioning to develop understanding of language and structure. These books will be given out on a Friday and we would like them returned to school no later than the following Wednesday - they are relatively short so this should be long enough. As we have a limited amount of these books, children will not receive a new one until the last one has been returned!

Reading Records:

We are again giving out reading records for this year. We hope children and parents will continue to keep records of what they have read and we will reward children who regularly bring in their record to show us! We had a good response last year from most children and felt it made a significant difference to those children who participated regularly. Any reading can be recorded in this - fiction or non-fiction and can be recorded by child or parent. We look forward to seeing which books you have enjoyed!

We do also sometimes run reading challenges to complement this, which particularly challenge children to complete books and write book reports. There will be prizes and certificates to incentivise participation!

Multiplication Tables:

We have a large focus on multiplications and other basic arithmetic in Owls class and a multiplication test will be held each week, usually on a Monday. The expectation is that by the end of Year 3 children should know their 10, 2, 3, 4 and 5 times tables fluently (e.g. without counting



**GRETTON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**Gretton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL54 5EY
Telephone: 01242 602679**

**admin@gretton.gloucs.sch.uk
www.gretton.gloucs.sch.uk**

Headteacher: Mr Adam Sallis MEd, NASEN, NPQH

through) and by the end of Year 4 they should know all tables up to 12 with a rapid recall (at least within 5 seconds). Year 4s will have a statutory multiplication check towards the end of the school year so we want to support the children so that they are confident in completing this. The benefits of knowing their times tables confidently are invaluable within class work and your help in practising tables with your child would be very helpful.

We are signed up to an app called 'Times Table Rockstars' which has always proved to be very popular and can make a considerable difference to the speed of children's recall. I will send out log in details for this shortly.

Spellings:

We began a new approach to spellings last year which seemed to be work well and we will be continuing with this approach this term. Please note that the weekly sheet we send out does not need to be handed in - it is there to support you with ideas / activities should you need it. Children also receive daily spelling practise in school and this seems to be having a positive effect on writing. Please do encourage your children to take care and be thoughtful in their spelling in all forms of writing.

PE:

PE will be on a Monday for this term. However, PE kits should be in school all the time as the timetable can change from time to time for logistical reasons. Please ensure your child has the correct school PE kit (see website for details). PE kits will also be needed for clubs.

Jackets:

Given the unpredictable British weather, please ensure your child brings a coat each day so that we can venture out for break times if it is wet. We won't go out if it is pouring!

I hope this letter has been helpful. We look forward to working with your child over the coming year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Bridges