



## Voyagers' Spring Newsletter



Welcome back after your Christmas break! Ms Weir, Mr Shaw and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that 2022 brings you everything you hope for.

I am really excited to be joining the teaching staff at Felton Primary. Many of you may know that I have been a governor at Felton for the past 9 years and I cannot believe that I have been given the opportunity of teaching here too! I have had the pleasure of working in six wonderful schools in Northumberland since I graduated as a teacher in 1997 from Northumbria University, where I work on a Friday as a Lecturer in Initial Teacher Training.

This half-term, the children will be taking part in a Mini Adventure called 'Clues from the Past'. This Mini Adventure will have a History focus, with the children exploring what life was like in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages. Our class novel of 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' by C.S Lewis will allow us to indulge in the fantasy world of Narnia and will form an integral part of our literacy curriculum this half term.

### Homework

#### Reading

Over the next few weeks, we will be undertaking an audit of our class free reader library, with the intention of giving the children a guided selection of novels that will ensure they have a breadth of reading experience once they are ready to progress to this. In the meantime, the children will continue to select their books as normal and we will send information about our new class libraries shortly.

I would be grateful if you could continue to hear your child read at home on a daily basis and record this in their reading diaries.

#### Spellings

The children will continue to be set spellings on a Monday for a test the following Monday. The first set of spellings will be set on Google Classroom on Monday 10th January for a test the following Monday (17th January). I would be grateful if you could support your children in learning these. You could write the spelling down on a piece of paper, cover it and then

write it down again to check their recall. It might also be useful to discuss the meaning of the spelling and then write it in a sentence, in context.

### **Times Tables**

Children should spend at least 30 minutes a week on Times Tables Rockstars. All children have their log in details in their reading diaries but do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or difficulties accessing this resource,

It is really important that children have a rapid recall of their tables and this will be a continued focus over the next two terms. The children will have a weekly timetables test. Children will need to be able to recall their weekly times table as well as associated facts. If your child knows that  $8 \times 6 = 48$ , do they also know that  $6 \times 8 = 48$ ? 48 divided by 6 is 8, 48 divided by 8 is 6, and, as they get more confident, that  $6 \times 80 = 480$ ?

Good luck!

### **The Felton Mile**

We will still endeavour to run a mile on Wednesday mornings. We will not resume our route around Felton until after February half-term. As long as playground conditions are not icy, we will run the mile on the playground. Please can children continue to come in on Wednesdays dressed for PE. They will then change into their school uniform at the end of the session for the rest of the day.

### **PE**

PE will be on Tuesdays ( Dance or Gymnastics ) and Thursdays ( Football) so please make sure that children have their PE bags in school.

### **Weekly Timetable**

I will teach the Voyagers on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, whilst Ms Weir will take a lead in the teaching and learning on a Thursday & Friday, following the same structure as during the Autumn Term, with the children taking part in a number of exciting learning activities including Ukuleles, RE, Collective Worship, PHSE, Mental Arithmetic, Reading Comprehension and Forest School.

## **Friday Forest School**

Please can we ask that your child comes to school on Fridays ready for Forest School.

The children can wear/bring:

- Warm trousers, in line with school uniform colours (ones that can get dirty)
- Warm socks/ welly socks
- A change of footwear (walking boots or wellies)
- Layered tops – t-shirts/long sleeved tops
- School jumper / cardigan
- The school will provide waterproof coats and trousers

I know that Ms Leithead was very proud of Voyagers' achievements in the Autumn Term and I have been very impressed with their hard work, behaviour and positive attitudes in my first few days at Felton. I look forward to watching them continue to grow in the next two terms.

I very much look forward to working with you. Please do not hesitate to see me at the beginning or end of the school day if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Steven Johnson