

****

**Pioneers’ Autumn Newsletter**

Welcome back to school! We hope you have had a fantastic and happy summer holidays. Mrs Dixon, Miss Wright and I are all excited to embark on the children’s learning journeys for the 2017-2018 academic year.

This half term we are going to focus a lot of our learning on the topic of ‘survival’ and we will start by studying Michael Morpurgo’s novel ‘Kensuke’s Kingdom’. This emotional tale of survival and friendship will allow the children to consider the challenge and emotions faced by Michael, the main character, as he struggles to survive in a hostile environment. We will continue our theme of survival by applying our learning about forces and materials in science to construct survival structures and tools.

**Reading and Spelling**

The children will have brought home new reading books this week and will have the opportunity to change their reading books during guided reading on a Wednesday afternoon. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Miss Wright, Mrs Dixon and I will run guided reading sessions in small groups. The children will be encouraged to articulate and record their responses to texts, in particular focussing on interpreting their ideas from the clues in texts (inference skills). We will also follow a daily spelling session, focused on developing reading and spelling word families, pre-fixes and suffixes.

**Homework**

Homework will be sent home in homework books every Friday, to be returned to us by Thursday. Every week, the children will be given a short English challenge and spellings based on the weekly focus of our daily spelling programme. Spellings will be tested on Thursdays.

The children will also bring home a Big Maths Beat That (BMBT) and CLIC homework sheet. The BMBT is a timed challenge, where the children solve the calculations facts as fast as they can. The CLIC sheet challenges the children to complete the calculations by applying the core calculation facts that they know. The children will also complete the BMBT and CLIC challenges in class every Thursday. If your child consistently completes the BMBT challenges in the allotted time, they will progress to the next step. If your child gets 10 out of 10 three times on their CLIC, they will move up to the next step.

**PE and Swimming**

Mrs Burrows will be leading PE sessions for the children on Thursday afternoons this year. Please make sure your child has clothing suitable for both indoor and outdoor sessions. Children who are yet to swim their 25m will still go swimming on a Thursday afternoon, you will have been informed if your child is going swimming this half term, please ensure swimming kits are brought in each Thursday if this is the case.

**Friday Forest Skills**

Please can we ask that your child comes to school in Friday ready for Outdoor Learning. The children can wear/bring:

* Warm trousers (ones that can get dirty and preferably in line with our uniform colours)
* Warm socks/ welly socks
* A change of footwear (walking boots or wellies)
* Layered tops – t-shirts/long sleeved tops/jumpers (we do ask children still wear their school jumper or cardigan as their top layer)
* The school will provide waterproof coats and trousers

I am really looking forward to getting to know all of your children and guiding them through their learning this year. If there is anything you should wish to discuss or query, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Long for an appointment and I will be happy to meet with you.

Nikki Gamston, Helen Wright and Kerry Dixon