**Adventurers’ Autumn Newsletter**



Welcome to the 2017-18 academic year, Mrs Robshaw and I hope you have had a fantastic holiday. We look forward to greeting our returning Adventurers and would like to say a huge ‘How do you do’ to those who are joining us.

This year we are going to begin with the story ‘Abel’s Island’. It is the tale of a rather unwilling adventurer who finds himself alone and washed up on a remote island. Abel must learn to survive and develop a means to escape the island in order to return home to his loved ones. This William Steig classic will inspire the children to think creatively about construction but also will ask them to reflect upon what they value the most. Following this, we will research the life of a more willing explorer in the form of Captain Cook.

**Snacks**

As a reminder, break time snacks are provided for the children in Year 2. Children in Year 3 are asked to bring their own healthy snack into school. No nuts, please.

**Reading and Spelling**

Children will have the opportunity to change their own reading books on a Wednesday afternoon. Should your child need to change their books sooner, they can. On Monday and Tuesday afternoons, Mrs Robshaw and I will lead guided reading sessions where we will focus on developing the children’s comprehension and inference skills. We will also complete a daily literacy programme that focuses on developing reading and spelling using word families, prefixes and suffixes.

**Homework**

Each week, a Homework Book will be sent out on Friday. The book is to be returned by the following Thursday. The children will have a short English challenge to complete and will also have a list of 6 words to learn. These words will be taken from our daily spelling programme and the children will be tested on these words every Thursday. There will also be two maths challenge sheets:

**Big Maths Beat That Learn It Challenge**

* This is a timed challenge that asks the children to complete as many calculations as possible. We want these facts to be as quick as a click so that the children don’t even have to think about them.
* Typically, we give the children 60 seconds to complete the challenge. You may choose to give up to 100 seconds. Alternatively, you can time your child and establish a time to beat.
* Questions in the Learn It challenges stay the same each week, although they are always in a different order.

**Challenge Two – CLIC Challenge**

* This aims to test the children’s application of their known facts and can take up to 15 minutes.
* Although the numbers will vary each week, the maths required to solve each question stays the same. Further guidance on how to answer each question will be provided with the first maths homework (Week 3).

**PE and Swimming**

Mrs Burroughs will be leading the children in PE on Wednesdays this year. Please ensure that your child has suitable clothing for both indoor and outdoor sessions. Swimming continues in its usual slot on a Thursday afternoon, with the children typically returning at 3:15pm.

**Friday Forest Skills**

Please can we ask that your child comes to school on Friday ready for outdoor learning. The children can wear/bring:

* warm trousers (ones that you don’t mind getting dirty)
* warm socks/welly socks
* have a change of footwear (wellies or walking boots)
* layered tops – t shirts/long sleeved tops/jumpers (we do ask that children still wear their school jumper or cardigan as their top layer)
* The school will provide the children with waterproof coats and trousers.

As always, if there is ever anything that you wish to discuss or query, please ask Mr Long for an appointment and I’ll be more than happy to meet with you.

Many thanks

Richard Pearson and Vanessa Robshaw