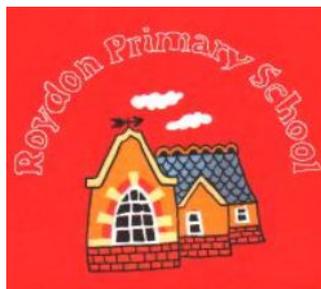


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January 5th, 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We thought it would be useful to give you some information about the organisation of your child's class as well as curriculum content for this term.

As you know Mr Santy will not be in school for the first half of this term. His class and sets will be taught by Mrs Cutler and Mr Aitkin, and Mrs Pharoah on Friday afternoons. We will continue to set by ability for English and maths. The sets are varied in size so that the third set has a greater teacher/pupil ratio.

Curriculum Content

Maths.	Place value (Th, H, T, U), Multiplication, Division, Money, Fractions, Decimals, Percentages, Shape, Angles, Measures, Addition, Subtraction, Data Handling.
English	Stories, Arguments, Descriptive Writing, Letters, Persuasive Writing, Non chronological writing.
Science	Evolution and Inheritance
History	A Study of Benin
Geography	Africa
I.C.T.	Movie Maker, animations
R.E.	The impact of the Hindu faith
Music	African music and composition
Art and DT	Animation, water colours, masks, collage, Making cams
French	Ma famille
Citizenship	Racism
P.E.	Thurs. - Year 5 - Swimming, Year 6 - Sports Hall Athletics, and Gymnastics Fri. - Games - Cross Country, Hockey and Badminton

P.E.

Games will continue to take place outside so warm clothes are needed. We recommend a sweat shirt and jogging bottoms. Please provide your child with a plastic bag to take home muddy trainers. P.E. kit must be named and should be brought in at the start of the week so that it is available if a timetable change occurs.

ALL children must have white T- shirts, shorts and plimsolls for indoor PE.



Homework

Homework will be the same as last term. We follow the Government recommendations that Year 5 and 6 children have 30 minutes per night. The timetable is as follows:-

Monday	Reading (15mins) Spellings (10mins) Tables (5mins)
Tuesday	Maths - to be handed in on Thursday
Wednesday	Reading (15mins) Spellings (10mins) Tables (5mins)
Thursday	Reading (15mins) Spellings (10mins) Tables (5mins)
Friday	English or topic work - to be handed in on Tuesday

To help children prepare for home work deadlines at High School, and to enable us to mark work, we ask that you encourage your child to complete assignments and bring it to school on time. If work is not done children will be expected to complete it at lunchtime and will also lose some "golden time."

Maths

To start the term we will be doing some work on "time." This will involve reading timetables written in 12 and 24 hour times and calculating hours and minutes between one time and another, e.g. A cake goes in the oven at 2.20pm and is cooked for $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours. What time does it come out?



There are many children who cannot tell the time on either an analogue or digital clock. If you have the odd minute (no pun intended!) you could really help your child by asking them to tell you the time. You could extend this to questions like...

It is 5.35pm. Tea will be in 40 minutes. What time will it be ready?

Or...

It is 16:20. We will go swimming at 17:00. How long have you got to get ready?

Tables

We will continue to have Tables Tests on a weekly basis. You may have heard on the news this week that there are plans to



test children on their tables starting in 2017. At Roydon we have always felt that it is important to have quick and accurate recall of tables facts because, not only does it help with multiplication and division work, but also for topics like fractions, percentages and ratio. Tables are practised in school every day but we ask that you encourage your child to learn them so that they are really competent. Why not set up a speed tables competition at home between all the family?!!!

Reading

Children should be encouraged to read for at least 15 minutes per day.



Although children in the juniors are more likely to read to themselves (especially by Year 5 and 6) it is **still** beneficial for them to read out loud, as it helps with fluency, expression and intonation.

Discussing the content of book they have read with an adult is also of enormous benefit. This will include asking basic questions about the text, then more searching questions to show they understand vocabulary and can read "between the lines."

Listed below are some ideas about how you can do this. These are some questions from an imaginary book but could be applied to other texts.

1. Find **3 words** in the story that mean Fred was **happy**.
2. Did the boy get on well with his brother? Give your reasons, using the story to help you.
3. The old man told the boy not to fish in the lake. Why do **you** think he said this?
4. How old do you think Fred was? How do you know?
5. What time of day was it? How does the story tell you this?
6. Why was Fred frightened?
7. What sort of person do you think Mary was?
8. "Instantly the spider **pounces**." Why do you think the author used the word "pounce" to describe the spider's movements?
9. Mr Jones was a **determined** man. Find some examples in the text that show this?
10. Did you like the story? Make **reference to the text** saying why you did or didn't. (it is good / boring is not acceptable!!)

Spellings

Spelling lists will continue to be given on a Friday and tested the following Friday. A reminder of the method of learning is in the front of the children's spelling books.

SATs WEEK

Year 6 take SATs in the week of May 9th - 13th. Please do not arrange holidays before or during this week. There will be an information evening about SATs on Thursday, 25th February at 7.00pm. More information to follow.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to come and see us.

Happy New Year!

The Upper Junior Team