

# Roydon Primary School



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January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! Christmas seems a long time ago after being back in school for only 3 days. 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.

We will continue to set by ability for maths. The sets are varied in size so that the third set has a greater teacher/pupil ratio. We are fortunate enough to have at least one Teaching Assistant in each set.



In case you didn't know, the set teachers are as follows:-

	Year 3 & 4	Year 5 & 6
Set 1	Miss Stannard	Mr Santy
Set 2	Miss Vale	Miss Leftley
Set 3	Mrs Birkinshaw/Miss Willer	Mr Gillen

English will be taught as a class, but children will be split into ability groups for phonics sessions and spellings.

## Curriculum Content

We are starting the term with a mini topic on **Heathy Living**. We will be discussing the importance of having a healthy lifestyle and ways to achieve this. The children will do some research about diet and exercise and write a leaflet to promote awareness. We also plan to make individual "rainbow salads" and will be asking children to bring in a plastic container with a lid.



Our main topic is "Weather". Children will learn about the rain cycle and also find out about drought, snow, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. in this country and other parts of the world. In computing we will do some work on animation that will include making a cartoon of a skier on a downhill run. We also plan to film our own weather reports.

## P.E.

Games will continue to take place outside so warm clothes are needed. As well as a white t-shirt and shorts, we really do 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 and for the sports "taster" sessions that Mrs Brown arranges. Swimming for Year 5 will start again this week.



### Homework

Homework will be the same as last term; the timetable is as follows:-

**Maths**. homework will be given on Tuesdays and should be returned to school by Thursday.

**English** homework will be given on Fridays and should be handed in by Tuesday.

Some children like to do longer written assignments (and some do not!!). We try to balance this by giving extended homework projects as well as weekly ones. This half term the children have been asked to interview someone who lived in the 50s and 60s to find out what life was like write then. Written guidelines explaining exactly what to do were given out last Friday. If you have not seen this ask your child for it! Interviews can be done in pairs but must be written up individually. If anyone has difficulty finding someone to interview please contact us this week.

Please encourage your child to work on this regularly and not leave it to the last minute.

DEADLINE for completion is **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February.**



### Maths

This term we will be doing some work on "time." This will involve telling the time using an analogue and digital clock, and calculating the hours and minutes between time.

*e.g. Tim gets on a train at 12.45.*

*His journey to London lasts 1 hour 30minutes.*

*What time does he arrive if the train is on time?*

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 10.50am. We will leave for swimming in 20 minutes.*

*What time will we go?*

Or...

*It is 16.20. Football will be on TV at 18.15.*

*How long before it starts?*

### Reading

Children should be encouraged to read for at least 15 minutes per day. Discussing the content of books 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 children 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 books.

1. Why was Tim excited? How do you know this?
2. What time of year does this story take place? How do you know?
3. Did the boy like Ben? Give your reasons, using the story to help you.
4. Using the text explain how Lucy felt when he was left behind.
5. Using the text explain why Dad was sometimes tired and grumpy.
6. Give 3 examples that show Mark was a brave boy.
7. What sort of person do you think Mary was?
8. Explain what Mum meant when she said her “diamond was **winking** at her.”

### Spellings

We have regular phonic lessons - children are split into seven ability groups that work on different sounds and spelling rules.

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



We hope this has helped to give you an idea of what will be happening in our classes this term. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to come and see us.

Happy New Year!  
Kind regards,

Dawn Stannard, Stacey Vale, Charlotte Birkinshaw and Tracey Willer