

Roydon Primary School



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January 10th, 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break and are ready for a busy term. Thank you very much for the gifts and cards that you gave us last term, they were much appreciated.

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 English and maths. The sets are varied in size so that the third set has a greater teacher/pupil ratio.

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

	Maths	English
Set 1	Miss Leftley	Miss Stannard
Set 2	Miss Stannard	Miss Phillips
Set 3	Miss Phillips	Miss Leftley

Science will be taught by Miss Phillips for both classes one afternoon per week.

Curriculum Content

Maths.	Place value (Th, H, T, U), Multiplication, Division, Money, Fractions, Decimals, Percentages, Shape, Angles, Measures, Addition, Subtraction, Data Handling.
English	Biography, Stories, Arguments, Descriptive Writing, Letters, Persuasive Writing, Non chronological writing.
Science	Adaptation and Interdependence Forces
History	Life in the 1950s and 60s
Geography	South Africa
I.C.T.	Internet safety, email, Movie Maker, animations
R.E.	The impact of the Hindu faith
Music	African music and composition
Art	Animation, water colours, collage, printing
French	Ma famille
Citizenship	Racism
P.E.	Thurs. - Year 5 - Swimming, Year 6 -Sports Hall Athletics, Cross Country and Gymnastics Fri. - Games - Football, Hockey and Badminton

P.E.

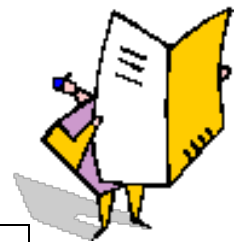
Games will continue to take place outside so warm clothes are needed. We recommend a sweat shirt and jogging bottoms. Please provide your child with a plastic bag to take home muddy trainers. P.E. kit must be named and should be brought in at the start of the week so that it is available if a timetable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

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

PLEASE NOTE: The swimming pool is closed until the week beginning January 20th.

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

We know that some children like to do longer assignments (and some do not!!). We try to balance this by giving *some* extended homework projects and some weekly ones. This half term the children will be asked to conduct an interview with someone who lived in the 1950s and 1960s and write an account of what life was like in those times. Written guide lines outlining our expectations will be given. Please encourage your child to work on this regularly and not leave it to the last minute.

DEADLINE for completion is **Tuesday 11th February.**

To help children prepare for homework deadlines at High School, and to enable us to mark work, we ask that you encourage your child to complete assignments and bring them 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

This term we will be doing some work on "time." This will involve reading timetables using a 12 and 24 hour clock, 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?*

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 books.

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!!)

This term we will study the work of an author. We have chosen **Michael Morpurgo**. Children will read his books in class but will be expected to read at least 2 other books at home and write a book review about them. We have a large supply of Michael Morpurgo books in school but a visit to the library may help to find other titles.

Spellings

This term we will have regular phonic lessons - children will be split into 6 ability groups that will work on different sounds and spelling rules.

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 12th - 15th. Please do not arrange holidays for this week. There will be an information evening about SATs on **Thursday, 6th March at 7.00pm**. More information to follow.

And finally... if anyone can spare any time to help in class, whether it's for 10 mins at the beginning or end of the day, or longer, we would really appreciate it.

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

Happy New Year!

Dawn Stannard, Jo Leftley, Amy Phillips