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'Learning at its heart'

Mallard Class – Year 4 and 5 – Learning Overview for Parents Spring Term 1 2022

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you had a well-rested Christmas break, full of laughter and happiness. This half term, our topic will be 'How did the railways change the country?'. Our learning will be focused on the Industrial Revolution, how it started and the inventors and inventions that had a huge effect on the way the UK would develop.

Our School Week

Your child's teacher for this term will be Miss Barnett. Mrs Townsin will be assisting the class on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Thursday and Friday afternoons. On a Tuesday, starting on 11th January, the children will have an afternoon Forest School session with Miss Ellis and Mrs Pettinger. These sessions will be held outside - please make sure your child has their full forest school kit with them. From Friday 21st January, the children will be starting their swimming lessons. Please make sure that your child has their swimming kit with them.

Reading Books

Reading books will be sorted out within the first week back at school. Please could you support us by reading with your child as often as possible, ideally daily. Please sign your child's home reading record each time your child reads at home, adding the page number so that we know where to pick up from when your child is reading in school. Please talk to your child about what they have read so they can show their understanding of the text. In school, we will teach the strategies that enable your child to read for meaning but the more your child practises these skills out of school, the more confident they will become. If your child has finished their book and has not had it changed, please take the opportunity to listen to them reread it.

Homework

Initially, the children will only have spellings to learn each week, and these will be tested every Friday. Spellings tests will be recorded in books which will be sent home every Friday, so that you can track your child's results each week, and practise any that your child got wrong. Times Tables tests will recommence once we have assessed the children. If you would like to support your child's mental maths skills, please help them to continue to practise the times tables facts.

The children will also be having their 'Pick n Mix' homework, which is to be handed in on a Monday.

Water bottles

We encourage the children to drink water often in class. Please send your child to school with a full water bottle each day. It is important that water bottles are filled before the children come to school, so that we have plenty of time for our morning tasks.





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The children are welcome to refill their bottles if they finish them before home time. Please ensure your child takes their water bottle home at the end of each day to be washed, and do not send your child in with any fruit squash - on the one hand, when spilt, it can cause damage to children's books but there is also evidence that drinking squash from water bottles can cause damage to developing teeth and gums.

As ever, I very much appreciate your support as we work together to develop your child's learning but if you have any concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you need to get in touch, please use your child's reading record or email or telephone school.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Barnett

