



LITTLE KINGSHILL COMBINED SCHOOL
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WHERE LEARNING HAS NO LIMITS

3rd January 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope your Christmas break has been an enjoyable one. We have many new learning opportunities this term which I am very excited to begin!
This letter provides a brief outline of the curriculum topics covered during the spring term as well as a reminder of our class routines and forthcoming events.

Weekly Timetable

The timetable for the spring term will remain the same as the autumn term timetable. Children have music, taught by Mrs Priestly on a Friday, games with Mr Mullins on a Tuesday, and gymnastics with Get Active on a Monday, whilst swimming will commence on a weekly basis from Wednesday 9th January.

Equipment

Can you make sure that children have all the equipment they need for school such as at least 2 working writing pens (blue or black) and 2 lead pencils. Colouring pencils, eraser, glue sticks, rulers and sharpeners are available in the classroom. A polite reminder - please could you ensure that **all** your child's equipment is clearly named (this includes pencils and pens).

Homework

The following homework schedule is a rough guide:

- **Monday:** Spellings given out, an associated spelling task to be handed in on Wednesday, spellings to be tested on Friday.
- **Tuesday:** English homework is set, to be handed in on Thursday.
- **Wednesday:** Maths homework set, to be handed in on Friday.

I may occasionally set the children additional homework, for example, a piece of science or research for history or geography topic, but I will allow a suitable amount of time for this to be completed in addition to other homework as I understand children may have other commitments outside of school. I will also set an extended project to support and extend the children's learning in specific subjects. Children will have several weeks to complete these tasks.

The recommended amount of time for children to be working with parents to complete a set task for children in Year 4 is 1.5 hours across each week (*Homework – Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools 1998 [DfES]*). Should I set an extra task or a task to be completed over a longer period, the suggested weekly times still apply.

This is in addition to children reading aloud for 5-10 minutes every night and learning their spellings and times tables. Children should create an extra column in their homework diaries to act as a reading record where they can record the book titles they are reading and the page/chapter number as well as a **signature of the adult** who heard them read.





Late Homework

In accordance with school policy, in order to tackle persistent late homework each time a child is late handing in their homework it will be recorded in their homework diary and also by the teacher. If the late homework doesn't arrive the following day they will be asked to complete it during lunchtime that day. If three pieces of work are late during a half term period, then the child will lose a lunchtime in school.

As well as expecting homework to be handed in on time, we expect work to have the same high presentational standard that we expect in class. Those who fail to meet these requirements will be asked to complete or repeat the tasks during their own time.

Curriculum areas

Maths	Understanding fractions, naming and measuring angles, understanding compass points and directions, perpendicular and parallel lines, squares and rectangles, rounding and comparing decimals, addition and subtraction of decimals, decimal word problems using four operations, understanding the 24 hour clock, area and perimeter, solving word problems about composite shapes
English	Fiction – Myths and legends Fiction – Fables and fairy tales Non – fiction – Information texts Poetry – List poems and kennings Poetry – Poems to perform
Science	Living things and their environment Electricity
History	Ancient Egypt
D.T. and Art	Journeys, Australian Aboriginal and African art. Creating a model animal (this will be sent home as a project)
Computing	Leaning about coding
P.E.	Gym and invasion games, including football, hockey and tag rugby. Weekly swimming session
R.E.	Symbolism, Sacred Texts, Rites of Passage, Pilgrimage
P.S.H.E.	Democracy, Getting on and falling out.
Music	Violins and choir
French	Tout le Monde

P.E. and Games lessons

Outdoor games lessons will take place on Tuesday for which the children will need a full outdoor kit including trainers. As the weather becomes colder they will also be required to have a suitable tracksuit. Uniform jumpers **must not** be worn as part of their P.E. kit. Dance or Gymnastics will take place on Monday for which children will require black plimsolls as their clean, indoor footwear. Children will be swimming on a Wednesday morning for which children will need suitable swimwear (a one piece, full swimming costume for girls and short, and speedo type trunks for boys). A swim hat **must be worn** if your child's hair is longer than chin length. Goggles may be worn if your child would prefer. If you are unsure regarding any aspect of P.E. kit please refer to the school prospectus. Please ensure **ALL** kit is clearly named, not just initialled, even if it is only written on the label. Please check these labels regularly as they often rub off in the washing. Earrings should be removed or covered on PE days and earring tape must be provided by home.



Hot Lunches

Due to the time that the children return from swimming on a Wednesday, hot lunches will be unavailable for children in Year 4 on a Wednesday. Please can you ensure that your child has a packed lunch provided every Wednesday, unless we are not swimming. Thank you.

Water Bottles

It is very important that your child is sufficiently hydrated during the school day and therefore they may bring a bottle of water into the classroom. Please ensure that these have a sports style cap in order to avoid accidental spillages.

Fruit

We are trying to encourage all children to bring a piece of fruit to school to eat at break. Unfortunately as children move up the school the numbers who eat fruit at break drops. By encouraging children to eat fruit at break, not only are they getting part of their 5 a day, but it is also maintaining their energy levels. As lunchtime approaches, there is a noticeable difference in the concentration levels and rate of work in children who do not eat fruit at break.

Absences

If, for whatever reason, your child is absent from school, please could you inform the school by telephone before 9.15am on the day of absence and in writing when he/she returns to school. Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Trips

We will be going on a trip to Hazard alley in March, as part of our PSHE learning. I will send a letter home with dates and costs nearer to the trip date.

Parent Consultations

A formal Parents' Evening will be on Tuesday 5th March and Thursday 7th March. Appointments can be made through Parentmail.

Parent Helpers

Thank you to those parents who already come and help with our class during the mornings. This is greatly appreciated by all. If you would be interested in becoming a parent helper, please do come and speak to me.

Questions and Concerns

Should you have any concerns, however small you may think they are, please do not hesitate to contact me by sending a note in with your child so that I can help resolve your trepidations. Please remember that as your child's class teacher I should be your first point of contact in order to deal with any issue that may arise as quickly and effectively as possible.

Many thanks in advance for all your support and co-operation, and I look forward to an exciting and fulfilling term together.

Yours sincerely

Miss B. McIntyre