



LITTLE KINGSHILL COMBINED SCHOOL
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WHERE LEARNING HAS NO LIMITS

4th January 2019

Dear Parents

Welcome back and a Happy New Year. Mrs Manktelow and I would like to thank everyone for their kind cards and gifts received over the Christmas break. We hope your Christmas break has been an enjoyable one, leaving the children refreshed and ready to embrace the new term, which will be an exciting and rewarding one. Of course, it was sad to say goodbye to Mrs Manktelow but we do welcome our new TA, Mrs Daugthery. This letter provides a brief outline of the curriculum topics covered during the spring term as well as information about forthcoming events and general reminders.

Homework

The homework schedule will continue as before the Christmas holidays. Your continued support with supervision over homework tasks is very much appreciated both by the school and your children. Although secondary school may seem a long way off, establishing these routines early significantly helps children achieve a much smoother and happier transition when they move on to their next school. Below is a reminder of what the children should be doing and how late homework is dealt with.

The following homework schedule is a rough guide and therefore subject to change when necessary:

Monday: Spellings are given out, to be tested on **Friday**.

Tuesday: English to be handed in on **Thursday**.

Wednesday: Maths to be completed by **Friday**.

Thursday: Science or Topic related work to be handed in on **Monday**.

This timetable provides the children with the opportunity to have all tasks completed by Friday if they wish so weekends can be homework free. Although this strategy is strongly recommended to the class, some children will need additional support and encouragement to organise themselves to achieve this.

This is in addition to **all** children reading **aloud to an adult** for 5 minutes every night and learning their spellings and times tables. On occasions, children may be given pieces of class work to finish at home if they persistently don't complete class tasks in the given times.

Late Homework

In order to tackle persistent late homework effectively, we will be continuing with the late homework system established across the whole of Key Stage 2. Each time a child is late handing in their homework it will be recorded. If the late homework doesn't arrive the following day they will be asked to complete it during lunchtime that day, although it will not count as two separate late pieces. If three pieces of work are late during a half term period, then the child will lose a lunchtime in school. This has been thoroughly explained to all the children.





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

Equipment

Despite constant reminders a number of children were still coming to school last term without the necessary equipment such as a suitable writing pen, ruler, writing pencils, rubber and pencil sharpener. May I ask again that no gel pens or Sharpie pens are used in school. Not having the correct equipment does not only cause disruption within class, it can lead to higher levels of anxiety for the child concerned. If you know your child has a tendency to forget items on a regular basis please consider providing them with two pencil cases, one which can stay in school throughout the year and another to keep at home for completing homework tasks. This is especially helpful for those children who are prone to worrying as it relieves a great deal of stress for everyone concerned. Can you also check that your child is not bringing in too much equipment in their pencil case? Overly large pencil cases mean that the children cannot fit them inside their trays, which means their pencil cases remain in the middle of the desk which leaves less working space on their table.

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 while they are on the children's desks.

Fruit and Milk

We are continually 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. Furthermore, a number of children still get milk at break. However, over the last term it has become apparent, that not all those who have ordered milk actually drink it, therefore I encourage you to reassess with your child if they are still wanting the milk provided at school.

P.E. and Games lessons

Although the children do not need their kit every day it should remain in school all week so that it can be used whenever necessary. If your child participates in our muddy after school clubs such as football or cross country, they **MUST** use a separate kit so that their school P.E. kit is not taken home for washing and then forgotten. The kit they wear for after school clubs does NOT have to be uniform. Outdoor games lessons will continue to take place on Friday for which the children will need a full outdoor kit including either **trainers** or **boots**. With cold weather it is essential that they have a **suitable tracksuit**. Jumpers or cardigans worn as part of their daily uniform **must not** be worn as part of their P.E. kit, otherwise if it gets wet or muddy they are left without a jumper to wear in class. Gymnastics will replace dance this term. If you are unsure regarding any aspect of P.E. kit please refer to the school prospectus. Please ensure **ALL** kit is clearly named, even if it is only written on the label.



Curriculum Topics for the Spring term

Maths	The four operations; fractions and decimals; tables, graphs and charts; using calculators; classifying shapes; converting units of measurement; measures; properties and reasoning about number.
English	Centering around the novel 'Brightstorm' by Vashti Hardy, we will be exploring mood and characters within a story, including different writing techniques used to build the mood.
Science	'Forces'
History	The History of Antarctica and Global Warming
Art/ Design Technology	Explorer art, Polar art.
Computing	'We are Cryptographers', devising and solving codes
P.E.	Gymnastics and invasion games, including football, hockey and tag rugby
R.E.	'Founders and Prophets' and 'Festivals'
P.S.H.E.	'Local Community' and 'Going for Goals'

Residential Visit to River Dart

Only one and a half terms to go! Although it may seem a long way off it will be here before you know it. With that in mind a recommended kit list will be sent out later this term so you can make preparations in plenty of time. Remember though, it will be worth holding on to any old winter clothing when the weather finally warms up a little, as long trousers and jumpers are an essential part of their kit, despite the trip being in the summer. Please also be aware that the school has to meet payment deadlines with both the centre and the coach company, therefore it is crucial that we receive all outstanding payments by the agreed times. If you are unsure about any aspect of your payment plan please speak to our bursar in the school office.

Year 5 CAT (Cognitive Ability Tests)

Year 5 CAT (Cognitive Ability Tests) tests are to take place provisionally on **Wednesday 13th February** and **Thursday 14th February**. There will be a letter to follow regarding these tests later in the term. Please avoid booking appointments on these dates.

Eco Conference

On 11th February, Year 5 and 6 are taking part in an Eco Conference with Phil Williams at Pipers Corner School. Phil will also visit us in school on the following day as a follow-up.

Handball

On Friday 15th February, we shall be taking part in a handball tournament at Holmer Green Senior School.



Local Trip

The Misbourne school have kindly invited Year 5 and 6 to watch their performance of 'The Adams Family' which will take place on **Tuesday 12th February** in the afternoon. Please see the separate letter regarding this trip.

Parent Consultations

A formal Parents' Evening will be held later this term. This will fall on **Tuesday 5th March** and **Thursday 7th March**. If you should have any issues you wish to discuss while your child is in Year 5, please feel free to arrange an appointment through the school office.

Many thanks for your ongoing support and co-operation, I look forward to another great term together.

Yours sincerely

Ms M. Glargaard