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### **"Welcome to Badger Class!"** **Newsletter September 2020**

Welcome back to school after such a long break from being taught in a class. We are so happy to be back and have planned a great term for you all. Some of you are lucky enough to have already experienced life as a Badger; we always try our best in our learning, always strive to be kind *and* have lots of fun!

You will be taught by Mrs Bailey on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Ms Tunstall on a Thursday and Friday.

Things have had to be organised slightly differently to what we're all used to, but by next week we will be totally relaxed with the changes and any worries will have disappeared. On the subject of worries, if during the school year you (parents and children) are concerned or feeling upset about anything please do not hesitate to talk to us. We are best colleagues and friends so please be assured that by discussing an issue with one of us is the same as letting us both know.

#### **Our topic**

This term our topic is based on **The Shang Dynasty**. This topic will teach the children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the achievements of one of the earliest civilisations. This will include learning about the main events, Settlement, Society, and Beliefs using evidence and artefacts.

#### **English**

We will be reading **The Firework Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman**.

*Lila knows what she wants: she doesn't just want to be a Firework-Maker's Daughter; she dreams of being a Firework-Maker herself! To discover the final firework-making secret, Lila must bravely head off alone on a journey – a journey filled with dangers beyond anything she could have imagined...*

We will touch upon plot structure, character and setting, as well as practising our understanding of written language using comprehension, grammar and punctuation exercises.

Some, but not all, of our Big Write will be inspired by our class text. The genre that we will be studying is **Writing to Inform**. Mrs Bailey and Ms Tunstall will be teaching you all how to organise your writing using paragraphs, bullets and sub-titles.

Each week there will be a **spelling lesson** and homework will reinforce the spelling patterns and rules that have been taught in class. There will be ongoing informal tests during the week culminating in an Assessment and Review Lesson at the end of Term to check on learning and retention.

We have lots of fabulous new **reading** books! Getting the right kind of reading book can sometimes be a challenge. The book you are given at first might seem too easy or too hard, but don't worry, we will sort out the best sort of books for you as soon as we can. You will be able to change your own reading book when you have completed it. It is important that you find a book that you are enjoying and this should be possible because every level has some great books to choose from.



***"Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12***

## Science

Our topic is about **Living Things and Their Habitats**. We will learn how to sort and classify living things and also look at habitats and how changes to the environment can pose dangers to different species.

## Maths

Learning the **Times Tables** is a priority! It cannot be emphasised enough how important it is for the children to learn their times tables 'off by heart'. It is the key to understanding and success in maths and gives the children great confidence. In Year 3 The National Curriculum expects all children to be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the **3, 4 and 8** multiplication tables and in Year 4 recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to **12 x 12**. However, in Badger Class most Year 3 children will also know all their tables by the end of the summer term. These skills will be taught in school and the children will be tested every Monday. It is essential that the children practise their tables at home as well as at school, and we appreciate any help and encouragement you are able to give your child. There are plenty of apps you can download onto a tablet which can make the learning more fun.

We will also be studying **Properties of Shape**: recognising angles (right, obtuse, acute), symmetry, horizontal, vertical, and pairs of parallel and perpendicular lines within shapes.

**Maths homework: There are 2 sets of homework. (Both set Monday and marked/reviewed the following week.)**

1) The children will be given their own **Times Tables Workbook**. One page of work to be completed every week.

2) Doodle Maths. Regular use of the website is expected and progress will be monitored weekly. The children will be given their own username and password. Tasks will be set on a Monday and need to be finished by the following Monday. *If you have a problem accessing a computer at home, please tell Mrs Bailey via email if possible.*

### **Weekly Routines:**

- Mrs Beale will be teaching **PE** on Tuesdays and Mrs Gibson on Fridays. (Please remember to have your *named* P.E. kit in school on a daily basis.)
- **Spellings** to be learnt at home will be given out on Fridays to be handed in the following **Thursday**.
- Regular reading practice is essential for fluency, comprehension and confidence and we expect our Badgers to be reading at least 3 x a week. To encourage this habit a **Reading Check** will be carried out on a weekly basis when reading records will be collected in. When we see that you have read at least **3 times per week (get an adult to sign your reading record each time please)** you will earn a sticker on your Bookmark. (Maximum of 2 stickers per week.) Once you have collected a whole bookmark of stickers, you will be rewarded with a certificate. Please note that you don't always have to read your allocated reading book; it can be a newspaper or magazine or novel of your choice!

### **THINGS YOUR TEACHERS EXPECT FROM YOU.**

We expect you to:

- listen to and respect one another (both children and adults!)
- look after your property and those of others.
- try your best to have neat and tidy work at all times.
- keep a neat and tidy classroom.
- hand your homework in on time.
- practise your spellings and tables regularly
- try your best at all times.

### **THINGS TO EXPECT**



### **FROM YOUR TEACHERS**

***"Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12***

We will:

- praise you and encourage you when you try hard
- help you with your work so you can understand
- tell you what we are doing everyday
- listen to you if you are worried about something
- mark your work thoroughly so that you know how you are learning
- hear you read in a group every week where possible
- **always aim to make the work and the school day as fun as possible!**

We are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable term together!

Mrs Bailey and Ms Tunstall



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