

Tiger Class Newsletter

Spring Term 3 2019-2020

Welcome back and a Happy New Year! Firstly, thank you for the generous gifts received at the end of last term. It is always a lovely treat to be given presents and we really appreciate it. It has been great to see the children all back and settled into class quickly, ready to work hard. Below we have outlined some of the areas that we covered last term and those that we will be working on this term.

We are hoping that Mr Jones will soon be back in class. He is taking some time to ensure that both he and Maici find their new sense of normality without the distraction of the holiday period and I am sure that you will appreciate that it is important for him to do this properly so that he is able to move forward and step back into school in a way that allows him to comfortably focus on his role here.

We have started a mini-topic in Integrated Learning this term, to cover the time that Mr Jones is not here, which is linked to current world events - the Australian Bushfires and their environmental consequences. The pupils will be learning about the geography and climate of Australia and how this has contributed to the current bushfire occurrence. We will consider factors necessary for fires to survive and spread and how they can begin to generate their own weather systems which exacerbate the problem. We will be looking at fire safety, with particular reference to bushfires and the impact on humans, animals and the landscape in the short and longer term. We will also be looking the global picture and the effect that the fires are having on other parts of the world.

MATHEMATICS Last term in Mathematics we used formal written methods to divide and used these calculations to solve a variety of number problems. We then moved on to fractions (including decimals and percentages). This involved being able to find equivalent fractions, comparing and ordering, converting from improper to mixed number and adding and subtracting. It is useful if pupils can make connections between percentages, fractions and decimals (for example, 100% represents a whole quantity and 1% is equal to 1 hundredth or 0.01; 50% is the same as a half, 5 tenths, 50 hundredths or 0.5). Any opportunities you get to reinforce this at home would be useful. This term we are moving on to measurement. Pupils will convert between different units of measure (for example, kilometre and metre; centimetre and metre; centimetre and millimetre; gram and kilogram; litre and millilitre). They will calculate the perimeter and area of shapes in centimetres and metres and solve problems involving converting between units of time. Please check that your child is able to tell the time using a 12 and 24-hour clock. If possible, ask them questions which involve reading bus or train timetables or ask questions that require adding or subtracting lengths of time (for example, "What time will the film finish if it lasts for 1 hour 25 minutes and begins at 3.35pm?").

ENGLISH

In Talk for Writing last term we enjoyed reading and writing some excellent persuasive letters designed to banish little girls and boys from their fairy-tale settings. We then wrote a newspaper article about Mary Anning which linked well to their topic work. The children will begin this term by reciting and writing some performance poems.

Pupils will continue to have four discrete spellings sessions each week and receive a spelling list which is given out on a Friday and tested on the following Friday. Please help your child to learn these spellings at home.

Tiger Class have made a fantastic start to the Buster's Book Club read on Wednesday initiative and we were thrilled to win the school prize at the end of last term. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home, it is one of the most important things that they can do to enhance their education.

PE Please remember that as the weather is a little colder, to send your child in with dark coloured jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt so that they are warm in lessons.

At the beginning of this term until Mr Jones is back in class, our PE days are **Wednesday** when we are learning **DANCE** with Laura from DancExtreme and **Friday** when we go to Dover Gym Club for our **GYMNASTICS** lessons. Girls are allowed to wear leotards for the gymnastics session but again, not tights or leggings - socks only please. We are grateful to the parents who have helped with supervision of our out of school sports sessions this year. If you are able to give us a Friday afternoon to help escort the children to the Gym Club, please let us know.

HOMEWORK Mrs Newton will set homework to be completed over the weekend by your child linked to maths and English work done in class. This should be returned to school by Wednesday at the latest in order for it to be marked and returned ready for the following weekend. If your child has any worries or problems with homework, please come and see us and we will try to help. Alternatively, they can go to Mrs Britton's Homework Club on a Monday lunchtime and she will support them there.

This term we would like the children to complete a piece of independent research and a presentation, linked to our Integrated Learning topic, about Australian environmental issues, specifically The Great Barrier Reef. This piece of homework should be brought into school the week beginning 3 FEBRUARY 2020 so that we can all see what we have achieved. A separate document is attached to the newsletter outlining what children should do and how they can present their findings.

LEARNING AND PROGRESS

Learning and Progress Meetings are usually held each term and this is where we issue you with a written report of your child's learning in the key areas with some targets for them to focus on this term. In light of Mr Jones' absence we have postponed these meetings and the report until his return. I am aware that you will want to know how well your child is doing what they still need to work on. This week we are doing the Term 2 assessments and will, from the outcomes of these, be able to set your child short and longer term targets which we will support immediately and which Mr Jones will pick up and work on when he returns. We will send these to you as soon as our teacher assessments and the test papers we use are marked and analysed. However, if you have concerns, worries or questions about your child's learning in the meantime, please come and talk to either Mrs Newton or myself and we will try to help.

DIARY DATES

6.2.20 Tiger Class Assembly - The Jurassic Period 2.30pm
10.2.20 Online Safety Day 4 - Relationships and Communication
14.2.20 End of Term 3
24.2.20 Beginning of Term 4
5.3.20 World Book Day - Performance of a 'book in day' 2.30pm
9.3.20 Parent's information workshop - How we Teach Mathematics 3.15pm
Wb 16.3.20 Assessment Week
30.3.20 Learning and Progress Meetings
31.3.20 Last Achievement Assembly of the term; Easter Egg Hunt and Raffle
1.4.20 Easter Service in St Augustine's Church 1.30pm; o/c end of Term 4