



**GRETTON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Mr R Woolston BEd (Hons)

Thursday 10th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year and firstly we would like to thank everyone who sent in cards and gifts before Christmas - it was much appreciated.

We are all looking forward to what promises to be another exciting term with a new topic 'United Kingdom'. Please find attached a Topic Map which outlines some of the activities we will be covering during the Spring Term.

Many of our routines will remain the same but I would just like to take the opportunity to remind you of these and make you aware of a few changes.

Free Maths / English Workbooks

Over the holidays Mrs Fowler and I had a bit of a sort out of our resources and found a number of old text books / supporting resources. Many of these contain some great exercises which would help reinforce children's learning. There is a selection of reading, grammar, comprehension and maths books for all abilities so please feel free to help yourselves - they're in a bag outside the classroom.

Spelling / Multiplication Tests

For this term, we will do our weekly spelling and multiplication tests on a Monday starting next Monday (14th January). Like last term, after each 4 week block the children will be tested on a range of their spellings from the past 4 weeks. The aim is that after this 4 week block they should have learnt the spelling patterns and so should not need to do a huge amount of preparation! The children should know the times table they are on and there is a chart for them to refer to in the classroom but please ask if you have any queries.

We continue to subscribe to 'Spellodrome' and have also subscribed to a new website 'Times Tables Rockstars'. I have attached a letter which explains this in more detail. We strongly encourage the use of both sites where possible and certificates will be handed out on a weekly basis in celebration assemblies.

Reading

Reading books should go home every night and at weekends but should also be in school each day. Whilst we will endeavour to read with your child as much as possible in school, please do try to read with your child frequently at home, even if they have been assessed as a 'free reader'. This should include asking them questions about the text, to make sure they have understood what they have read. Whilst we encourage moving children on when they are ready, it is important they are able to

fluently read and understand what they are reading or else it can be counter-productive and put them off!

We have had a reasonable response to the green reading records this year and I strongly encourage you to use these as much as possible -it makes a huge difference. We do celebrate children's achievements within this scheme and there are some small rewards for reaching certain milestones of number of nights reading. Their reading really can be anything age appropriate including non-fiction but a good balance is important. They can either write their own comments which we love to read, you can write a comment or a mix of the two.

Homework

Homework will now be given out on a Friday and will be due in the following Thursday although earlier is better if possible! A dojo point may be removed from your child if homework is not completed, unless there is a genuine reason. However, we do like to be positive and dojo points will be awarded for completed homework.

PE

PE this term will be on a **Thursday**. However, PE kits should be in school all the time as the timetable can change from time to time for logistical reasons. Please ensure your child has the correct school PE kit (see school website for details).

Snacks and Water Bottles

Please ensure your child has a healthy snack for morning and for afternoon break if they wish, which they will take out to eat at break time each day. Unless you have specifically requested, I would prefer water bottles to be left just outside the classroom on the shelves as this helps to keep our learning area less cluttered. We encourage the children to take their drinks, as well as toilet breaks, at playtimes.

If have any questions please do pop upstairs or catch us on the playground and have a chat with either one of us after school.

Kindest regards,

Mr Bridges
Class Teacher

Mrs Fowler
Teaching Assistant