

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year! We have already had a lovely couple of days back in the classroom and are excited to be back, learning together this term. Below you will find some useful information for the coming term - please read it carefully and do get in touch if you have any questions.

I will be teaching the Voyagers for the majority of the week this term, supported by Mr Shaw each day. We are delighted to welcome Miss Weir, our new teacher, who will also be teaching in the Voyagers on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings, where she will be leading RE and teaching some parts of our mini adventures, as well as giving us extra capacity in our Forest based learning.

We continue to have measures in place to reduce the spread of infection, mainly hand sanitising and minimal sharing of resources as well as well ventilated classrooms. We are very pleased to be able to have our break and lunch times together with the Pioneers although we are keeping separate whenever possible, and when inside.

**Snacks:**

Please make sure that you provide a healthy snack for your child to eat after break - a piece of fruit is ideal. Now that we no longer have a later lunchtime, this snack does not need to be as substantial as it was last year! All children should bring a reusable water bottle to school each day, which they are able to refill in the classroom, and take into lunch.



**Sport and Outdoor Learning**



We will be starting to run our weekly mile soon on a Wednesday and once this begins, the Voyagers should come to school dressed appropriately to run our course around the village. We will also be swimming on a Wednesday, beginning on the 15th September. Please make sure that your child has their swimming kit in a bag. Since we will be running and swimming on the same day, the children may stay in their PE kit throughout the day if you wish, and do not need to bring school uniform to change into.

***Please note that we will return to school after swimming on a Wednesday between 3.15 and 3.30.***

We will also be taking part in cricket sessions on a Thursday this half term - please ensure that the children have their PE kit in school each week. On a Thursday, the children should come in their uniform. We will change at school into the PE kit, and then remain in it to go home, bringing uniform home. You can return the PE kit the next day if you wish to leave it at school.



We continue to do Forest School on a Friday afternoon; the children should come dressed in warm, dark coloured (preferably black, blue or grey) tracksuit bottoms or outdoor trousers, wearing their usual school uniform with these. Please do not send your child wearing shorts on a Friday. If the weather is bad, we have waterproofs for all of the children but you can send your own in if you prefer. On a Friday the children should also have a pair of wellies in school as it gets very muddy!

I would recommend that you send wellies into school and leave them there, as there are many other times in the curriculum where we access the forest and it is useful to have access to them all of the time. It may also be useful to put a spare pair of socks in school bags in case of wet feet due to the grass being wet.

**All uniform, wellies, PE and Swimming kits should be clearly named please.**

**Reading and Homework:**

Next week we will be giving out new reading records and making sure that everyone is on the correct reading level. We will begin to send reading books home towards the end of next week. In the meantime, please continue to read books that you have at home.



Regular reading is very important so we ask that you (or your child) write in the reading record each evening - please just let us know what you are reading, which pages you read, and any other comments you might have. Even if your child is a 'free' reader, we really like to be able to talk to them about what they have read, and have a record of it. Each week we will check the records and if 5 reads have been recorded, 5 team points will be awarded.

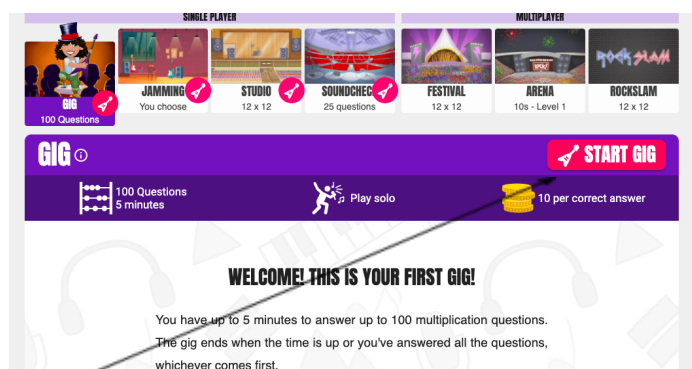
We will begin to set homework and spellings in the next couple of weeks. This will be set on Google Classroom (where you accessed online and remote learning) and each task will have a clear due date for your information. We will usually set spellings and one or two pieces of homework each week.

Spellings will be linked to a rule or pattern each week, or be topic words that we have encountered in class.

### Multiplication facts practice

Throughout years 3 and 4 it is really important that all of the children are regularly practising their multiplication facts. We have access to a great online programme, Times Tables Rockstars, where the children can play games and dp practise at their maths level. You will find the log in to this stuck inside the new reading record. Everyone should be practising this for 5 - 10 minutes, 4 or 5 times per week.

When you initially log in to the website, it will ask you to complete a 'Gig'. This is to see where the children are with learning their multiplication facts. The screen should look like this :



Press the 'Start Gig' button to begin. The website automatically moves you forward through learning multiplication facts once you have mastered each times table, as well as recapping and embedding knowledge as you go.

### Mini Adventure:

Our mini adventure this half term is 'Fun on the Rhine'. We will be learning all about countries in Europe, particularly those which the Rhine passes through, studying Europe's main rivers and mountain ranges as well as reading maps and developing our art and DT skills. The full mini adventure overview can be found attached to this email.

I am really looking forward to spending the year with the Voyagers and I know we are going to have great fun on our learning journey together. If you have questions, please do contact the school office or let me know on the yard and we can arrange a time to meet.

Jane Leithead