



Wednesday 7th September 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer with your children and that they are as excited as we are about the year ahead. I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know a few details about the Autumn term in Doves class and to say how much Mel Marshall and myself have been enjoying their company.

We have started the term with a Welcome where we have been spending time creating our Class Charter and introducing the children to our first class book: *How to Train a Dragon* by Cressida Cowell. We will also be doing some creative activities based on our first history topic of the year: Traiders and Raiders.

Reading

I am aiming to hear all the children read during the first week back and check where they currently are on our reading scheme. The children will then be taking home a new reading book and a reading record the following week. Please can you hear your child as often as possible (ideally at least 5 times a week) and record it in their reading record. This doesn't need to be a long comment, but it is really helpful to see how often the children are reading. We will be continuing to celebrate reading with the children earning stickers for their Daily Nights of Reading certificates. Mrs Marshall will change the children's books (when they are ready for a new one) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. When the children are ready for Cream reading level, they will be able to choose their own books.

We also have a book corner in our classroom with books for the children to browse. It would be wonderful to widen the choices available for the children, so if you have any books, children's magazines or comics, that you would be able to donate, they would be very much appreciated – especially any non-fiction books.

Last year, we were lucky enough to have some wonderful parent readers in Doves who came in to hear the children read. If anyone is able to give up an hour on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, this would be very much appreciated. Please could you let the office know, or speak to me if you would be able to help. It really does make such a difference to help improve the fluency of our readers.

Spellings

Yesterday, the children were given an orange or yellow spelling folder in their book bag which has their first week's spellings inside. We will be checking the children's spellings every **Monday** (starting next Monday – the 12th of September) and the children will be writing their words in a **small yellow spelling book**. We will be marking the spellings that day and putting these books back into the children's book bag so that you can see how they got on and if there are any words which might need more practise. Please can you make sure the yellow book stays in their book bags so it is ready to use again the following Monday. Every Monday that the children hand in their spelling folders, with their completed homework, will earn them a point towards a small prize. Hopefully that will encourage them a little!

History

This term we will be learning about the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings and finding out about their everyday lives. We have already started creating our own Viking warrior costumes in school and we will be teaching the children how to develop their research skills to find out about King Alfred and his connection to Shaftesbury. We will be borrowing some artefacts from Wiltshire Learning Resources to make a class museum but if you have any books or objects at home which you could lend us, we would love to include them.

PE

Doves will have PE with Luke every **Monday** and **Friday** afternoon. During Autumn 1, the children will be playing netball and football and during Autumn 2, they will be learning gymnastics and multi-skills. Please could the children come to school in their PE kit on those days. If they have a sporting club after school, they will need to come to school in their school uniform and bring their PE kit to change into after school.

Science

We will be learning how to be scientists this half term and practising our enquiry skills. As part of our identifying and classifying lesson on Tuesday the 12th of September, we will be looking at skeletons of different animals. If you have any animal skeletons/bones at home, I would be very grateful if we could borrow them. On Tuesday the 11th of October we will be researching how to take care of a komodo dragon. If anyone has a reptile at home that they could bring in to meet the children that week please let me know.

Helen Rumney

On Friday afternoons, the children will be taught by the wonderful Helen Rumney. She will be teaching a music unit during the first half term based on body percussion and after half term will be teaching the children PSHE where they will be exploring empathy and feelings.

Show and Tell

Mrs Marshall and I are very keen to learn more about your children's interests and to celebrate their successes with them. On the first of every month, or the nearest school after it, the children are very welcome to bring something special in to share with the other children. Our next Show and Tell Day will be Monday the 3rd of October.

Finally, I have enclosed a curriculum map for this term which outlines all the key learning objectives we will be covering. If you have any questions about it then please don't hesitate do speak to me. I also wanted to say that I know starting a new term can be a little bit daunting for the children, so please do come and speak to me or Mel Marshall if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Vicky Gambier