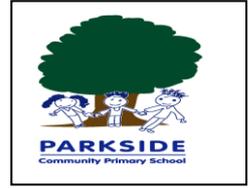




PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
SQUIRREL CLASS LETTER
TERMS 5 & 6



DATE: 26/04/2021

Dear Parents/Carers, welcome back! I hope you have had a relaxing Easter break and are refreshed and eager to return to school. The summer term is a wonderful time of year in EYFS and we are really looking forward to an exciting and very busy term ahead of us. We shall be focusing on outdoor learning and will be planting our garden allotment and exploring a range of habitats, from our garden and woodland, to the seaside. Please support your child by reading together every day and discuss what you have read. It would be wonderful if you could also make reading the focus of your bedtime routines by reading a bedtime story. Parents are the best reading role-models so please encourage your child to read at every opportunity; reading is a window into a world full of glorious imagination!

Term 5. Throughout term 5 we will be investigating 'minibeasts' and learning about the lifecycles of animals and plants as well as learning about different habitats and how they support life. Our history focus is, that time passes in sequential order which we will learn through the wonderful picture book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' By Eric Carle.

As part of our discovery focus we will be exploring habitats and the damage rubbish and pollution causes our environment and ways we help make changes for the future of our planet. We will read 'Oliver's Vegetables' by Vivien French and the 'Bad Tempered Ladybird to explore time using O'clock.

Curriculum focus:

Phonics: Recapping Phase 2 Letters and Sounds and will continue Phase 3 focusing on (blending and segmenting) please ask your child to highlight digraphs in text to help them make vital links between phonics and real reading.

Maths: The Ten-ness of 10 (number bonds to 10, comparing groups to 10, 10 o'clock, counting in 1ps to 10p). We will be subitising (recall numbers to 10 as well as looking at number patterns and time related to day.

UTW: Our focus is habitats, lifecycles including baby ducking's (we will have hatchlings in class) and caterpillars. We shall also be exploring a history focus - that the passage of time changes us all.

Term 6. Throughout term 6 will continue to focus on habitats and are planning a 'WOW' trip to the seaside to explore sea creatures and where they live using the fabulous picture book 'Billy's Bucket' by Kes Gray. We will

As part of our geography discovery we will focus on what we wear in response to the climate to keep us safe (sun screen, sun hats, sun glasses etc.). We shall explore floating and sinking to investigate materials to make pirate boats and different positions by making maps.

Curriculum focus:

Phonics: Recapping Phase 3 concentrating on blending sounds for reading and segmenting sounds for spelling and consolidating Phase 4 (Phase 4 focuses on reading and writing words containing two adjacent consonants).

Maths: Numbers to 20 (counting) Count on and back (Adding/ taking away by counting on/ back) Numerical Patterns (Doubling, Halving, Sharing, Odds & Evens). We will introduce the concept of 1 ten, 2 tens – making it practically in different ways to explore place value.

UTW: Our continued discovery focus is the weather and habitats, including the seaside. We will discover what we need to wear to keep us safe according to changes in the climate and investigate floating and sinking by making boats/pirate ships using a range of different materials.

PE takes place twice a week and is on Monday and Thursday.

Please ensure your child comes into school dressed in their PE kit as we will not be changing in class. Please ensure that your child has **jewellery removed (especially earrings)**.



We would like to achieve the 100% Attendance Certificate for the next two academic terms and in order to achieve this all children need to be in school every day.

It really is essential that children are regular attenders as low attendance has a huge impact on a child's learning. Given the huge disruption the children have already faced since September, please ensure that your child is in school by 8.40am to start promptly at 8.50am each day. Late arrivals really do have an impact on your child and the rest of the class and often means they have missed the first teacher lead input of the day. Thank you.

We take PRIDE in our school and uniform so please ensure that your child comes to school each day wearing the correct uniform. Your child should arrive each day wearing appropriate weather proof shoes, not pumps or trainers and please no shoes with laces unless they are able to tie them themselves. This also means being suitably dressed for the weather (sun cream should be applied at home even if it is a cloudy day) sun hats should be provided and your child should bring a waterproof coat as they will go out to play at lunch and break times even if it is raining. I would also like to remind parents that children should not be wearing nail varnish to school.

Golden Rules GREAT

Gentle hands and feet.

Really listen carefully without interrupting.

Expect to work hard.

Always tell the truth and be a good friend.

Treat resources with respect and tidy away.

Dates for your diary: TBC on the schools newsletter but please check Squirrel Email regularly and your child's book bag in case they have been given school letters.

Please read with your child each night to help them build their phonic knowledge and skills. We will NOT move children onto a new book until they can read their current one fluently so it is essential that you practise with them at home. This means daily practise of the sounds until they can read the whole word and sentence fluently. Just saying the sounds in order is not reading so please keep practising until they can read with confidence.

Talk about the story and characters and use 'book talk' as much as possible. Play phonic spotter games with your child using their reading book or other favourite book at home to help them spot sounds in words and find tricky words embedded in text.

REACH for the Stars



Resilience



Effort



Aspiration



Courtesy



Honesty



Children in Squirrel Class are given fruit at snack time so there is no need to send in additional snacks unless they have a specific dietary requirement that the school is aware of.

Packed lunches should consist of a sandwich (cheese or ham), low sugar drink, yogurt and at least two pieces of fruit (please cut grapes in half to avoid choking).

Biscuits and chocolate are sugary treats which are best enjoyed at home as they can impact on a child's behaviour.

REMINDERS: If you have arranged for another person to collect your child from school then please remember to let us know.

We will **NOT** release a child to an adult unless we have your permission to do so!

Water bottles can be sent in daily but they must only contain WATER and be taken home each evening to be thoroughly washed and returned.