

Dear Parents,

I was really excited to welcome all of your children back on 5th January. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them all over the past 7 weeks- what a fantastic group of children they are! They are really engaging in Maths and becoming more resilient learners. I am very proud of their positivity and effort. Class 4 are also amazing me with the improvement in their creative writing using the new whole school Talk for Writing approach to literacy.

Last term, we were all extremely pleased to welcome Mrs Westwood as our Teaching Assistant. Mrs Westwood will be supporting in lessons, carrying out interventions with year six pupils and listening to readers to help them prepare for their SATS examinations.

The new topic for this term is The Vicious Vikings. I can't wait to teach this topic which will branch into most subject areas.

Reminders

PE will be on a Tuesday (with a Luctonians coach) - the children will be learning hockey and lacrosse skills outside, so please ensure that they always have appropriate kit in school including trainers. On Thursdays, we are very lucky to have an experienced Dance Teacher coming into school to coach the children. She will be concentrating on Modern Dance and I cannot wait to see their moves! Please look out on Seesaw for any clips of their learning (they were all given new logins for this before Christmas).

Homework

A few pupils have not been handing in homework. Please ensure that they are completing the following:

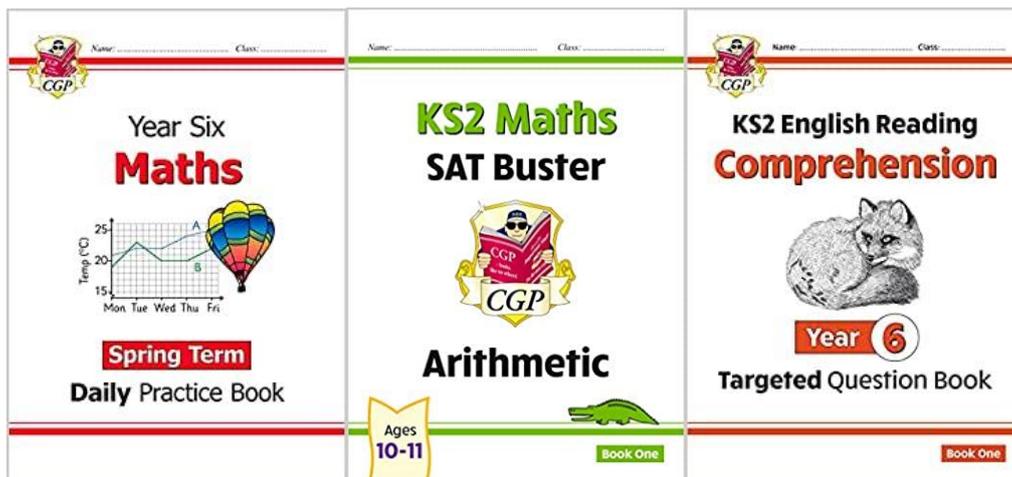
- Times tables practise weekly on TTRockstars (the log in for this is in the front of their maths homework books). We will also be stepping up times tables practise in class as it is so important for the pupils to be able to recall them quickly and correctly. Feel free to encourage your children to chant their times tables around the house, maybe whilst doing the washing-up. (I have two children of my own so know that this is probably not going to happen with regards the washing-up, but whenever you have a few moments to spare each day).
- Maths homework linked to concepts taught in class will be on a weekly basis and will be given out on a Tuesday, to be handed in the following Monday. If there are any problems, the children should tell me before the deadline as I am more than happy to support this during lunchtimes.
- Homework Challenge - each Friday, the children will be set a homework challenge. This will be linked to any subject area to enhance their understanding. This needs to be handed in on a Thursday please.
- Spellings - children will have spellings to learn each week; these will be bought home on a Wednesday for them to learn in readiness for a test the following Monday. I have glued the Statutory Spellings into the back of their reading diary. These are words that they are expected to be able to spell by the end of year 6. They will also have built up a knowledge of all other statutory spellings across each year group.
- Reading – Ideally, your child should read at home as often as possible. The more that they can read to you at home, the better their reading pace, stamina and understanding will become. Encourage them to discuss key themes, to use a dictionary to find the meanings of key vocabulary and to

explore fiction, non-fiction (newspaper articles or knowledge books such as Steve Backshall's Deadly 60) and poetry. Please could you sign their reading record each time they read at home. I have started to bring new books to class; some classics-some contemporary, which I have researched to be challenging reads for their age group. I will post a list on Seesaw of recommended texts for you to explore with your children if you need some inspiration. I love buying books for my children- our house is full of them, but please don't feel you have to buy them. We have some in school and I'm sure the library would welcome young readers through their doors!

SATS

If you would like to help with the preparation for your child sitting their forthcoming tests, some of the following points would be helpful:

- Try not to mention SATS all of the time but gently encourage your child to read regularly, learn spellings and practise times tables.
- CGP books are fantastic. There is a daily practice book for Maths which would be useful for fluency and an arithmetic book. If you can practise arithmetic regularly, it'll be a huge help to them. In the recent assessments, arithmetic has proven to be a tad weak so any practise at home, along with our new 8-a-day classroom practice, will be fantastic.



Thank you so much for your support so far. Please ask if you need any further help.

Kind regards,

Miss Ludlow