



Badger Class Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A big welcome back to everyone! What a strange few months it has been and I am so pleased to have all my class back in school and working together again. It has been a pleasure to welcome all the children into Badger Class. Whether they are returning as Year 4s or joining us as Year 3s; all the children have made a fantastic start to the year and I am always grateful to them for their energy and enthusiasm for learning especially after such a long time away from school based teaching. I am also delighted to formally welcome a new child, Lily, into Year 4. I know she is already being made to feel very welcome by all at Spooner Row.

Baseline assessments

Once the children have settled back into school and built up good relationships with myself and their peer group again, I will start to do some baseline assessments with them across English and Maths to get an idea of where everyone is with their learning. I already have a good picture of where my Year 4 children were before we broke up for summer and this information will help me support the whole class in the best way possible. There may be some children who require some extra support or intervention (small group work) in certain areas to help give them a little boost. This would be normal practice in an ordinary year but will probably be even more significant this year. If I have any specific feedback from these assessments then I will contact parents directly.

Curriculum

Badger Class' main theme between now and Christmas will be based around the topic of 'The Romans' and I know many of the children are keen to learn more about this. We will look in depth at this period in time historically, but we will also link it to other areas of the curriculum such as Art, DT and Literacy. To gain more information about all of the subject areas please see the attached curriculum overview.

PE lessons will be on Thursdays and Fridays this term and please could children come dressed in their PE kits on those days. It is very important that children have outdoor PE kit with enough layers so that they can participate in these lessons fully as all lessons will be outside for the foreseeable future. Also just a quick reminder that long hair should be tied back and earrings should be removed for these lessons.

Home-School Diaries

Hopefully these books will support the children's organisation and allow easy communication between home and school. We will try to ensure they are checked daily by an adult in the classroom but if there is anything extremely urgent then please email me directly MissBest@spoonerrow.norfolk.sch.uk.

Reading

It has been so great to hear the love of reading children have developed and enjoyed during their time away from school and I really want to build on this passion. Please encourage your child to continue to read regularly at home (at least three times per week) and record this in their home-school diaries. Children are welcome to record reading sessions themselves but these need to be signed by an adult. House points are awarded for regular reading at home on a weekly basis. As well as developing children's reading through the book bands, I am keen for children to develop a real love and passion for reading and I will try to encourage this through guided reading sessions, use of a range of texts including magazines, comics, joke books and promoting an Author of the Term. This term our author is Jeremy Strong and we will be reading the Romans on the Rampage together in class and encouraging children to enjoy other stories of his. I know many children prefer to read their own books as well as the book band books and this is fantastic so please also record this in their diaries and I am happy for them to alternate between a book band book and a free choice book or have two books on the go at the same time.

Homework

Thank you to all children (and parents) for the amazing journal work you did over the summer. It was lovely to hear the children share their summer experiences and show their journals to the rest of the class.

The children will receive a variety of different homework tasks over the term and these will be outlined in their homework books. They can range from creative work to writing tasks to maths challenges. Homework is set on a Friday and due in on a Tuesday; the duration of the homework varies but I will always allow a minimum of two weekends for it to be completed. If you have any questions about homework then please feel free to come and ask.

We will continue to work on spelling patterns in class on a daily basis. Each week, there will be a small spelling pattern homework to help the children develop their long term knowledge of spellings. This is set on a Friday and handed in the following Friday. There is no formal spelling test but children will be praised for the effort they put into learning the pattern and when they use it correctly in their writing.

There is also a list of words set out by the government that children should know by the end of Year 3/4. These will be tied into the class work on spellings as much as possible and some of the weekly spelling tasks may relate to these words. A link to the Year 3/4 word list can be found here (page 16): http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/18288/1/English_Appendix_1_-_Spelling.pdf and in their home-school diaries (page 10).

Additionally, it would be great if children could practice their times tables and associated division facts as much as possible to develop their confidence. I will be supporting children in school with a weekly times table focus lesson including games and challenges to engage the children but any additional support at home would be brilliant. I have attached a list of websites that might be useful to help make times tables a bit more fun! Times Table Rockstars is a great place to start as the children are familiar with the programme and have specific multiplication tables to work on. The government have introduced a Multiplication Times Table Check for Year 4 children that will take place during the summer term and children are tested on their tables up to 12x12. I will provide more information about this to Year 4 parents in the spring term. If you need any further support please don't hesitate to contact me.

<https://ttrockstars.com/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>

<http://www.teachingtables.co.uk/>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm>

<https://nrich.maths.org/1252>

Adults in Class

In class this year the children will be taught and supported by myself and Mrs Colchester, Mrs Gray, Mrs Stemp and Mrs Baker. The children may receive support in different ways; including whole class teaching, small group work and 1:1 support.

If you have any questions at all, please do come and speak to me. I am very much looking forward to the exciting term ahead, getting children back into school routines and getting to know Badger Class 2020-21.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Miss Best and Mrs Colchester