Kestrel Class Newsletter

**September 2019**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kestrel Class and the start of another school year at Enfield Academy! I hope you have had a lovely summer and have enjoyed the time spent with your children. I have put together some information regarding a number of class routines, which will take place throughout the year.

PE

PE lessons will take place every **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. Please ensure that all items of clothing, especially sweatshirts, are clearly labelled. Girls should have their hair tied back, if it is long. Earrings should be removed, for health and safety reasons. If your child is unable to take part in PE, due to physical injury, please contact the school office. It is recommended that PE bags remain in school for the entire half term. This is because children may be required to have PE kit on days other than specified PE days, on rare occasions. Additionally, children will be required to have a pair of trainers in school every day for participation in the Golden Mile. PE bags will be sent home every half term. For this term children need to have available an outdoor PE kit including trainers.

Reading

In Kestrel Class, we promote a love of reading! Reading strategies are taught in English lessons through skills based ‘VIPERS’ approach (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explain, Retrieve, Summarise). This enables the children to build a comprehensive understanding of the reading strands and develop the ability to identify the specific skills that we are learning. As part of your child’s homework, it is important to encourage him/her to read independently at home as much as possible. As your child is in Key Stage 2, please encourage him/her to read for sustained periods of time; an average of at least 15 minutes, three times a week. It is important that the children read a variety of material, such as fiction, non-fiction and poetry. If you discuss the book after your child has finished, this will help you to check his/her understanding of what has been read. Please sign and date your child’s reading record **and number each session**, to ensure your child receives the appropriate certificate or reward. The children are then responsible for changing their books, as necessary, during break times and allocated library sessions. Our class book for autumn term is ‘Viking Boy’ by Tony Bradman; children are welcome to bring a copy to read along with in school if they wish.

Home Learning

All home learning will be due in on a **Monday** and will be given out on the following **Wednesday**. Please ensure children show pride in their presentation; this is a quality they should adhere to through their home learning, in line with the expectations at school.

Maths: the children will be expected to complete one maths task per week, which will be specific to their current in-class learning. This should be completed as independently as possible in order to embed skills and learning. The children should still access ‘Times Tables Rockstars’ in order to embed the rapid recall of their times tables (username and password can be found inside their home learning book).

Spelling: the children will be given a spelling grid at the start of each half term. This details the spellings that the children are expected to learn each week, as well as the spelling rule that is the focus. Spellings should be practised in accordance with their weekly spelling home learning guide, at the back of their home learning book. Spelling tests will be conducted every Monday morning; please ensure your child practises the spellings for the correct test date.

Topic: for each new topic, the children will be given a topic home learning map, which they can choose to complete tasks from, if you wish them to. Tasks focus on further inspiring their love of topic in various ways. We celebrate the children’s efforts through our key stage two ‘topic home learning’ display in our corridor.

Class Dojo

We will continue to use Class Dojo this year - the points based rewards system that is being used within school. Children can earn points individually to earn various rewards. Points will be awarded for attitude relating to our ‘Building Learning Power’, achievement and for fantastic homework efforts. Points can be taken away for undesirable behaviour, late or incomplete homework or not being prepared for lessons e.g. no reading book/record or no P.E. kit. Parents can connect to Class Dojo in order to view the points their children have earned, however at this time we will not be using the story or messaging features.

Food Allergies / Medicine

Please be aware that our First Aid staff are only permitted to administer medication if prescribed by a GP or hospital doctor. If your child does have any medication that needs to be taken or stored at school, please tell us and we can give you the appropriate forms to complete.

If you are worried or have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to come in and talk to me.

Miss Blastland

Class Teacher