



Radley CE Primary School & Foundation Stage Unit

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Dear Parents,

We are delighted how positive the children have been on their return to school and embracing the Old School as our classroom. The Year 5 children are beginning to rise to the challenge of greater independence and the Year 6 children are setting a positive example as the eldest in the school.

We are delighted to welcome Mr Pearman as an Associate Teacher in Thames, and Mrs Holt will continue as our Teaching Assistant. Mrs Goddard will also continue to support both in Thames and in other areas of the school. Mr Wolstenholme will be teaching Thames on a Thursday afternoon to cover PPA time.

This term we will be having swimming lessons on Monday afternoons beginning the week of the 12th September. Children will need to bring in a swim suit, towel and swim hat (goggles are optional and a separate permission slip will need to be returned to the school office). In addition to this, we are fortunate to continue to receive support from Ignite Sports for our weekly PE lesson, which will now take place on Wednesdays. As our classroom storage space is limited, we would ask that children **come to school in their PE kit on a Wednesday** instead of keeping their kit in school.

Our first school trip is quickly approaching on Wednesday 14th September when we will be visiting the National Space Centre in Leicester. This is an excellent opportunity to support our Space topic, visit the planetarium and gain a greater understanding of what life is like as an astronaut.

During the week beginning 19th September, we will take part in a Music Flood week where children will experience a range of music activities, kindly organised by Radley College. The week will finish with a trip on Friday 23rd September by local bus, to the Abingdon Market Square where we will participate in a musical concert and collaboration with other Abingdon schools.

Our whole-school Christian value of the term is Relationships. We will explore this value through class discussions and whole-school assemblies.

Due to our school expansion, we will be having our assemblies in St James the Great Church. It is therefore important that children have a waterproof coat in school every day to keep dry. Personal water bottles are also an essential item of school equipment that children should bring into school daily.

For the rest of the term, Thames Class will be studying the following topics across the curriculum:

English	Whole School unit: Five Bears Astronaut Diaries Factual writing – Food Miles Science Fiction Storywriting
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Jesus said, "I come to give life - life in all its fullness," John 10:10

	Traditional Tale – Ancient Maya Report – Endangered Animals
Maths	Place Value and the Number System Four Operations: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division Fractions
Science	Earth and Space Forces
Computing	Computing systems and networks – sharing information Creating media – Vector Drawing
History/ Geography	Amazing Americas Ancient Maya Civilisation
D.T/ Art	Tints, tones and shades Landscape art Maya art Automata toys
P.E.	Swimming Ignite Sport
R.E.	Hinduism – what is the best way for a Hindu to show commitment to God? Christianity – Is the Christmas story true
Music	Music Flood – Abingdon Schools Notation for music and film
MFL	Spanish
P.S.H.E.	Being me in my world

Children will receive homework and spellings to learn. We intend to set these in the next few weeks, once the children are settled into the new school year. We will be back in contact with you to give you more information on this.

Reading remains a high priority in Thames Class and although many children are now independent and fluent readers, we ask that they read for a minimum of 15- 20 minutes every day at home. They will have an individual homework diary for recording their reading and other activities. Library books are organised by level of difficulty to help children gain independence and choose a book that is right for them.

We always welcome your help and support with your children's learning and if you feel that there are any areas of this term's curriculum that you may be able to contribute to, please let us know. We particularly need support with hearing children read.

The start of a new academic year is always an exciting opportunity, and we ask that you continue to support your children towards greater independence with personal organisation and responsibility. As most of us know, some of life's greatest lessons and rewards result from overcoming our own personal challenges.

As always, we welcome your questions or feedback, so please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office. It is always best to communicate early and openly should there be any concerns, to ensure a positive, productive and supportive environment for your children.

Best wishes,

Heather Sparks
Thames Class Teacher

David Pearman
Associate Teacher