

Topic Theme: Our Island: Sailor Ted and the Mystery Tour, Oliver's Vegetables, Pumpkin Soup.

Class 1

September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. The children have arrived refreshed and excited to come into school. They have had a lovely start this week and have been eager and willing to work. They have shown enjoyment with their learning tasks, where they have completed their work with independence, focus and growing maturity. They have had a lot of pleasure playing with their friends, a little excitement with the fire alarm going off and the fire brigade visiting school and they have impressed us with their artistic skills, producing beautiful paintings and colourings of sunflowers, which they planted last spring. Thank you so much for completing the 'Summer Holiday Scrap Books'. It has been a delight sharing them in class. The children have really enjoyed looking at each other's books and talking about their holiday stories. Everyone has had something to say, which has been fantastic. Don't worry if you didn't manage to complete the whole scrap book, as there will be opportunities for the children to add to them later in the term, if they so wish.

This week we started some assessments which will continue into next week. This will help us to organise phonic groups, guided reading groups and Maths groups, to ensure the children are working at the appropriate ability level. This week we managed to send home a new reading book but we have not yet been able to bench mark their reading, which ensures they are reading books with the correct level of challenge. When we have done this you will receive a letter with your child's reading day. The 'Guided Reading System' in the class works really well and the children were quite independent organising their books into the daily reading box last year. **As always please support your child to bring in their book on the correct reading day. It really helps our reading system to run more efficiently, which in turn benefits the children.** If your child forgets to bring their reading wallet into school, please try and return it on the following day so that we can give out new books to read at home. We encourage all children to read daily at home so that they make steady progress and gain pace and fluency in their reading. This year we hope to track the daily reading, so that children can earn certificates and rewards for their good reading practise. Along with the reading books next week we will be assessing key words. These will be practised in class and also sent home as a homework task to support their reading.

Last year we introduced our monitor jobs to help look after the class and keep areas tidy. I am pleased to see the children taking on these roles again this week and taking responsibility for our class and its resources. Everyone is keen to earn reward stickers and take their turn being a monitor. This is a positive step towards developing a sensible, mature and responsible attitude in our class.

This Year our PE day is on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please can you ensure your child has a P.E kit in school for this day?

Homework will continue to be sent out every Friday and it will relate to work they have covered in class. This will probably alternate with a Literacy task one week followed by a Numeracy task the next. Now and again your child may have homework connected to the topic theme. This year we have provided a homework book to work in. Each week I will check the homework and stamp it so that you know it has been acknowledged. Please can you return the homework in your child's book bag by the following Wednesday.

Our topic theme this term relates is 'Our Island'. We will start our learning journey with the following books, 'Sailor Ted and the Mystery Tour', then 'Oliver's Vegetables' and finally 'Pumpkin soup' or 'The

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Enormous Turnip'. These are lovely books which should allow us to explore the curriculum in exciting and imaginative ways, whilst also giving the children an insight to the variety and contrast of things on The Isle of Wight. Our school trips will also link into the book themed learning journey. We hope to visit a farm on the island and find out how local produce is farmed. I will confirm school trips later in the term.

We are continually trying to develop and resource the learning areas in our class to make tasks fun and interesting. If you have any old or unwanted items at home we would be most grateful to receive them. In particular we are looking for equipment for our role play areas: Children's plastic or wooden kitchen equipment and vegetables and baskets for our vegetable stall.

A few friendly reminders:

- Please bring reading wallets into school on your child's reading day.
- Thursday is an additional reading day with an adult, so please could you ensure reading wallets are also in school on this day.
- Pupils need a drink in class and should bring a labelled water bottle daily. Please can I ask that only water and no squash is sent in?
- If your child brings in money for a fruit snack please can you make sure it is in a labelled envelope or purse so that it is not lost.
- **PE** will be on a **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** so please make sure that they have their PE kit in school for this day. Thank you!
- **Homework** – will be reading and a weekly English or Mathematics task.
- **Children need to be on the playground for 8.40am** please for learning in the classroom to commence at **8:45**.

Do let me know if you have any questions, Kind regards, Mrs Evans