

PANDA CLASS AUTUMN TERM 2023 NEWSLETTER



8th September 2023

Dear Panda parents/carers and children,

I hope you all had a great summer holiday and that the children are refreshed and ready to get learning! Thank you so much for the kind gifts which were very much appreciated.

This term, there will be many sporting opportunities to participate in, a whole school trip, a visit from an author, Harvest festival, council elections, Remembrance day, Maths Week, Children in Need and of course the Christmas performance! As well as some sporting events taking place throughout the term.

The whole school trip is to Paignton Zoo on Wednesday 20th September. A letter with all the details will be sent out very soon.

On 28th September, as part of the Appledore book festival, we will be welcoming author Tom Palmer who will be talking to the children about how he writes. We will be selling books for signing from next week. These cost £8. A sample copy of each is on display in reception for you to browse. If you would like to buy one, please get your child to bring in £8. I will then give them a copy of the book they would like. This will be on a first come, first served basis. The children will also be listening to and exploring his book 'D Day Dog' before his visit.

The school council elections will be a chance for the children to practice their oracy skills and I hope many of them will decide to try for a position at the beginning of October.

All children will take part in the Christmas performance nearer the end of term and, again, I hope to see many of the children wanting to audition for a speaking part. Although, there are will be many non-speaking roles for those who do not.

Listed below are some of the areas of learning that your child will be covering this term, so you will be able to discuss their learning at home. If you have any books, artefacts or personal experience of any of the below, please let me know.

Science

- Forces and magnets
- Sound

RE

- Judaism
- Christmas

Design and Technology

- Advent calendars

Art

- William Morris - printing

Geography

- The USA

History

- Stone Age to Iron Age

Computing

- Computing systems and networks

PE

- Dance
- Golf
- Football

Music

Learning to play melodicas

Spanish

Greetings

Panda Class weekly activities

Reading – Please continue to read with your child at home (at least 3 or 4 times a week from their level or free reading book but daily is preferable – especially if you know that your child needs a little more support). Of course, any other reading is a bonus! Remember, your child can always choose a text on Bug Club. They will have their reading records checked weekly (on a Monday) and may be asked to stay in for part of break if the minimum cannot be done at home. Please write a comment and sign each time you hear your child read and this will earn them extra house points and ensure both books are in your child’s bag **EVERY DAY**. They will be part of a guided reading session at least twice a week as well as reading individually – either on their own or with an adult.

PE – Please can your child continue to wear their PE kit in on a Friday. This is their house colour t-shirt and shorts/tracksuit trousers. They should be wearing either their school jumpers or school hoodies and NO earrings.

House Points will be awarded to children who complete homework on time, read at home, show kindness and demonstrate good behaviour and learning skills. These will be placed in a box in the classroom so a winner can be picked each week.

Class Rewards can be given to the class for special reasons. If the class collect all of them, then they will be rewarded by a special treat/activity of their choosing (within reason).

Home Learning - In class, the children will access the Nessy Reading and Spelling programme at least twice a week (approx. 20 mins a week). **At home, the children will be required to complete another 20 mins – making 40mins in total.**

Some children have completed Nessy and these children can complete other English tasks such as:

- Learning their 3/4 statutory spellings
- Touch typing activities

This will need to be written in their reading records and signed by an adult when completed

The children can also access TTRockstars (a multiplication programme) from home, which will really aid their mental maths recall. Year 4 children will be undertaking the multiplication recall test in June so it would be wise to get in as much practice as possible. They can do this by going onto this website:

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

Please contact the school office if you would like to talk to me about anything – I am usually available for a quick chat at the end of the day.

Mrs Evans – Panda Class Teacher



Website: www.shebbear-pri.devon.sch.uk