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*Belonging Believing;
Together Succeeding*

Headteacher: Mrs G. Davies

11th January, 2022

Blue Class Curriculum – Spring 2022

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We are so excited to see the children again and hope you all had a restful time over the Christmas holidays. The class have come back to school keen and eager to share excitement from home, and have warmly welcomed 2 new children, as well as welcoming Mrs McGregor back into Blue Class. This term Miss Meredith will teach Blue Class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with Mrs McGregor teaching Thursdays and Fridays. There will be support from the fantastic teaching assistants, Mrs Cambridge and Mrs Alderton at various times throughout the week.

Topic: This term's topic is The Anglo Saxons, continuing from our work on Roman Britain, up until Alfred the Great's invasion. We have already started looking at the clothes Anglo Saxons wore and look forward to finding out about many aspects of Anglo Saxon life, their houses, customs, trade, skills and their legacy. We will try to link other areas of the curriculum around this history topic, to make cross curricular links meaningful, for example, sketching Anglo Saxon brooches using art techniques and designing and building an Anglo Saxon roundhouse in Design and technology as well as looking at the materials used to build with during science lessons.

In Blue Class, we continue to use Dojo points in class as rewards for specific behaviour and skills but in keeping with the Cambridgeshire STEPS behaviour training, we will not be keeping a termly total for individuals, just for the class target. The tally of individual dojos will be reset each fortnight. We are trialling this for this term, so it may change. Mrs Davies has told the children about being awarded tokens for the end of term treat, so when your child is awarded a Dojo, they can collect a token to be dropped into the bucket containing the treat of their choice.

This week we will be introducing class partnerships. Your child is now in a partnership with another member of Blue Class and works with their partner to earn ticks on their chart. The partnership with the most amount of ticks by the end of each week is rewarded with a trophy the following Monday and is allowed to sit on cushions for the entire week ahead. This is to help the children in Blue Class practise sharing, patience, kindness and a whole heap of other skills involved in working with a partner. They particularly enjoyed choosing their partner and inventing names for their partnerships. Their choice of names can certainly make us smile! These partnerships change half-termly.

English: Through discreet English lessons, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar lessons (SPAG), and cross-curricular lessons we aim to cover a range of genres covering poetry, fiction and non fiction. Writing is an area that has many different parts including punctuation, spelling, and description to make it interesting as well as checking it to ensure it makes sense and neat handwriting. Any extra encouragement you can give to help your child write at home would be much appreciated, for example in



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their reading record, shopping list, letter to grandparents, short stories if they want to write at home, as well as writing some homework rather than typing.

Maths: This term in maths, we will be looking multiplication, division, fractions and decimals, measurement (length, perimeter, area). It has already become clear that times tables facts are of paramount importance within maths lessons so please encourage your child to say, sing, draw, write and practise times tables facts regularly – counting as they go upstairs or whilst waiting in a traffic jam for example.

A statutory end of year times-table assessment has recently been introduced for Year 4 children and support for learning times-tables can be found on the website and Google Classroom. We expect the children to be able to answer a times table question within 6 seconds – that is the same as for the end of year test. The assessment is timed and the below link will help your Year 4 child prepare for this <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>. This term we will not be having weekly times tables tests, but we will be focussing on times tables patterns. This is not to say you can't test your child at home with quick fire questions at the meal table, in the car, on the way to school. This will be part of the essential skills in homework tasks.

Our RE topics this term are “How do Muslims show obedience and submission to Allah?”, “Why do Hindus want to collect good karma?” and “Why do Christians call the day Jesus died “Good Friday?”

PE: PE will be with Mr Herd twice during the week on Wednesdays and Fridays as well as teaching Swimming on Wednesday mornings so it is a busy term for PE! The days may change so please ensure your child has all they need for PE each week. We have a no tape policy for earrings. **They need to be removed please. Some girls in Blue Class have already been a little worried by this and are fearful of removing them. Please help your child practise removing their earrings at home, so they feel more confident doing it independently in school.** If this is a problem, please speak to us.

Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school including tracksuit bottoms, top and a change of footwear for PE as well as indoor shorts and T-shirt. Occasionally due to weather or restrictions on use of the hall we have to change days so your child's PE kit needs to be in school at all times. Mrs Alderton will teach yoga with a specific focus on mindfulness and self-confidence building.

Home activities and Learning essentials: Your child has a school-reading book, which should be brought in to school every day. Please make sure you are reading with your child at least three times a week and recording this in the reading log. I would love you to read every day but recognise the pressures of life and how this can be tricky. Please also support your child with handwriting practice. They should focus on writing neatly on lined paper, forming lower case and capital letters correctly. There are homework tasks related to class learning on Google Classroom but rather than 1 task to be handed in each week, we expect your child to complete a task from the list so by the end of the term they will have completed many challenges. There may be additional tasks to be completed if your child needs more time to go over a specific concept but we will be in touch if this is the case.

Growth Mindset and Resilience: This year we are continuing to build a class of children able to cope when things do not go their way, through sharing mistakes and finding solutions together, to show mistakes are positive learning experiences and an important part of daily life. This is a thread throughout all lessons, especially PSHE. If you have any concerns about your child's anxieties, worries or resilience, please send us an email. Partnership and Dojo points are specifically given when resilience is displayed. We have also been practising a ‘Yes I can’ motto when facing challenging activities.

Outside shoes

This time of year starts to get very muddy and so we are asking all parents now to send a pair of ‘outdoor’ shoes for their child to change into before going out at playtimes and lunchtimes. If your child does not have any outdoor shoes to bring into school, they will be asked to keep off the grass once it starts to get damp and muddy.

Thank you again for your support and we hope your child and you enjoy this term's learning and activities. If you need to contact me about any aspect of your child's learning or well-being, my email is below.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Meredew, Mrs McGregor Mrs Cambridge and Mrs Alderton

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