



## Barrington Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) School

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*Belonging Believing;  
Together Succeeding*

Headteacher: Mrs G. Davies

16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### **Blue Class Curriculum – Autumn 2022**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to you and your lovely children after what we hope was a very relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday. We cannot wait to begin a new term and hope your child is feeling excited to start either Year 3 or Year 4. This year Blue Class will be taught by Miss Meredew and Mrs Cambridge with Mrs Cambridge teaching on Thursday and Friday afternoons and otherwise supporting the class as our general teaching assistant.

**Topic:** This term our topic is 'We Will Rock You' as we go back in time to explore the Stone Age. Keep your eyes peeled for information regarding our upcoming school trip where your child will have an opportunity to truly experience life in the Stone Age outside of the classroom.

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 children are also 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.

We also use class partnerships in Blue Class. This provides a brilliant opportunity for your child to support and be supported by their peers and is a great tactic for developing oracy and team building skills. In the first part of the autumn term, your child will choose their partner and create a partnership name. Once your child is more settled into Blue Class, these partnerships will be changed and decided by us so that your child can be appropriately supported and challenged.

**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 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. This term we will begin by looking at the story 'Mr Stink' and writing in the style of David Walliams. We will go on to study the life of an author and auto-biographies, as well as persuasive writing, stories from other cultures and poems.

**Reading:** In Blue Class, we are keen to promote a love of reading and have daily 'Whole Class Guided Reading' sessions where we share a book as a class. This provides an opportunity for the children to hear a range of texts and is a great way to experience reading expression, intonation and projection of voice.



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The sessions also allow us to develop reading skills such as inference and prediction. Our current class book is Mr Stink by David Walliams. Your child has a copy of the book in class. Blue Class children will also have a reading book and reading record. We ask that your child reads at least three times a week as this is part of their essential home learning. There is guidance for completing the reading record which will be given to your child and additionally attached in this email.

**Maths:** This term in maths, we will be looking at place value and addition and subtraction. Year 3s will begin by looking at and representing numbers up to 100 whilst Year 4s will begin by looking at and representing numbers up to 1000.

We build in times tables facts into most lessons, so please continue to practise ALL facts up to  $12 \times 12$ . We will be having a times-table weekly quiz to support the children with recall and the securing of multiplication facts.

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. This resource online requires 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/>. Whilst we do not encourage a test type environment in class, we welcome any practise of multiplication facts and you are more than welcome to test your child at home with quick fire questions at the meal table, in the car or on the way to school. Times-table work will be part of the essential learning.

**PE:** PE will be with Mr Herd on **Wednesday afternoons** and Mrs Alderton will teach yoga with a specific focus on mindfulness and self-confidence building on **Tuesday mornings**. Please ensure your child has all they need for PE each week, especially if they attend a club and go home in their PE kit. We have a no tape policy for earrings. **They need to be removed please. Please help your child practise removing their earrings at home, so they feel 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/ shorts, top and a change of footwear for PE. 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.

**Home activities and Learning essentials:** Your child has a school-reading book and reading record/log 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. The reading log guidance helps explain how reading should be recorded but we are asking that all recording is completed by the child to encourage their reading skills and independence. 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 is a list of Year 3/4 words which children are expected to spell by the end of Year 4. As part of the essential learning, we are asking children to write out these spellings using a 'look, cover, write, check' method. It is best to only focus on up to 5 words at a time. This can be written in any book or paper you have at home. A copy of these words is attached in this email but they are also available on our class page on the school website and Google Classroom. There are essential learning 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. Essential learning tasks aim to ensure meaningful learning is completed as occasionally homework is not always a true representation of understanding and it can mean there is not enough time to also complete essential skills like reading and times tables.

**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. 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 us about any aspect of your child's learning or well-being, our email addresses are below.

Yours sincerely,  
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