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*Belonging Believing;
Together Succeeding*

Headteacher: Mrs G. Davies

9th September 2021

Blue Class Curriculum – Autumn 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to what currently feels like the 'old normal' in school. We are so excited to see the children again and hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday. We have already heard lots about the children's adventures and it is lovely to know the children are getting to experience days out, holidays and family hugs once again! This term I will teach Blue Class with support from the fantastic teaching assistants, Mrs Cambridge and Mrs Alderton. Mrs Cambridge will also be teaching Blue Class Thursday and Friday afternoons. We are trying our best between us to stand at the door in the mornings to greet the children. Some mornings, I am the only adult in class and this is therefore not possible but it is always nice to say hello to you so I promise to try my best to do just that.

Class routines

Topic: This term's topic is The Romans. We have started our whole class guided reading book, 'Julius Zebra' and have enjoyed looking at pictures of the colosseum when discussing the setting of the story. We will be further exploring Rome, mosaics, life for Roman men, women and children as well as looking at Roman Houses, Boudicca and the Roman Empire.

In Blue Class, we continue to use Dojo points in class as rewards for specific behaviour and skills but have also introduced 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 me seem as though I have gone a bit bonkers when I call them out to line up for lunch or assembly. These partnerships change half-termly.

English: Through discreet English lessons, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar lessons (SPAG), and cross-curricular lessons we aim to cover the following genres: Instructions, non-chronological reports, adventure stories and poetry.

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 their homework rather than typing. We have also started practising daily writing stamina through



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an activity we are calling 'short burst write'. This involves warming up our 'writing muscles' and then completing a timed, mini writing task. So far, the children have really enjoyed these activities and we are hoping to develop Blue Class writing champions.

Maths: This term in maths, we will be looking at roman numerals, place value, addition and subtraction. Place value explores the value of digits in 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers and helps the children make connections between tens, ones, hundreds and thousands. We will then move on to addition and subtraction later in the term. 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. 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/>. By the end of next week, your child will know which timetable they are working on specifically and this will be monitored within class until they have secured all facts in the 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11 and 12 times table.

In **Science**, we will be looking at states of matter, exploring these through the context of Romans by looking at wax, Roman Baths and charcoal.

Our RE topics this term is 'Understanding Christianity' with an overarching question 'What do Christians learn from the story?'

Art: In art, we will be exploring roman mosaics by using our own instruction writing to create these. We will also be looking at sculpture as we design and make our own Roman pots.

PE: PE will be with Mr Herd twice during the week on Wednesdays and Fridays but 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 every Thursday morning with a specific focus on mindfulness and self-confidence building.

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. Lastly, timetables must be practised weekly to help them progress and secure all of the facts. These activities are not homework to be handed in but will help your child greatly with their learning in class.

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 Cambridge and Mrs Alderton
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