

# Welcome to Spring Class

Some important information for you....

## Staff

- ❖ Mrs Couves (Mon-Thurs)
- ❖ Mrs Dunsby (Teacher Friday)
- ❖ Miss Percy (Teaching Assistant)

## PE

P.E days are **Wednesday and Friday**. Please make sure your child comes to school in full PE kit (blue T-shirt, blue shorts, socks, trainers, hair tie for long hair, jogging bottoms and a jumper for the cold weather).

## Water/Fruit

Learning is such thirsty work! Water bottles are kept in the classroom for children to access when needed. Children may bring in a fruit or vegetable snack from home for break time.

## Reading

We want children to continue to develop a love of reading. Please encourage your child to read at home every day, no matter what their reading ability; this doesn't have to be a book, it could be a leaflet, instructions, a magazine or a newspaper article. This can often be independent reading, however, evidence shows that children who regularly share books with adults at home develop more fluency in reading, better comprehension skills and more enjoyment from texts. This not only improves reading confidence and skills for later life but leads to greater achievement in writing.

Enjoy discussing the books you read, commenting on characters, setting, structure and language choices. Please encourage children to read to the punctuation and to read with expression.

In order for us to monitor some of this reading, children should record comments in their diary. This should not be an onerous task, and need not be every time they read. Three good entries per week will earn them a team point.

## Homework

Please encourage your child to submit homework on time and complete it to a high standard by going through it with them, when finished. Homework will consist of:

- **Reading:** children should read every day and write at least three comments in their purple reading diary each week - sentence starts and prompts at the front of the diary to help. These will be checked each Monday morning.
- **Times Tables:** weekly revision/learning of times tables and related division facts - tested on Tuesdays.
- **Maths task:** designed to support what we are learning in class. The purpose of this is practise, not stretch or challenge - we will provide that in class. This will be set on Fridays and should be submitted by the following Thursday.

## Times Tables

Our aim is for all children to know the times table facts up to  $12 \times 12$  and there is now a compulsory test to be taken by all Year 4 children. Times tables practice is part of the weekly homework. Once your child knows them, focus on increasing speed of recall and knowing the division facts too ( $6 \times 7 = 42$ , so  $42 \div 6 = 7$  and  $42 \div 7 = 6$ ). Times Table Rock Stars and other online games are a fun way to learn, consolidate and improve speed.

## Equipment

- \* Book and reading diary
- \* Pencil Case (to be left in school)
- \* Water bottle
- \* Fruit/Vegetable Snack for break time and lunch box if having a packed lunch
- \* Wellies (these can be left at school)
- \* Weather appropriate clothing

Please make sure everything is named.



Any queries, questions or concerns, please come and speak to me at the end of the day or email [parents@balcombeschool.co.uk](mailto:parents@balcombeschool.co.uk)