



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

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September 2024

## Class Flamingo

### Autumn Term 2024 – Time Travellers

Dear Parents,

Hello and welcome to the Autumn Term, after what we hope was a restful summer break. We welcome you to Class Flamingo and hope that your children will be inspired and excited by the lessons we have planned for them.

Our topic this term is "Time Travellers" and we are very excited that this topic takes us back in time and is very history based. The children love learning about events which took place a long time ago and how people used to live. We will specifically be looking at castles, how they were used and who lived there. This will include our trip to Hedingham and we know the children will love this interactive day at the castle. Letters have been sent out separately.

### Class Routines

Mrs McIntosh is the class teacher Monday to Friday. Mrs Murdamootoo is our Learning Support Assistant (LSA) Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and Mrs Williams is the class LSA on a Thursday and Friday morning.

We encourage the children to drink regularly, from a water bottle during school day and would therefore ask you to continue to provide a named bottle of fresh water for your child daily. This will be even more important when the weather is warmer.

Our PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday (Tuesdays is with the sports coaches) so children will need to ensure their PE kits are in school, including a pair of socks in their bags for these days. Please remember earrings must be removed for PE lessons (we can no longer tape up earrings) and that long hair must be tied back every day.

### Homework – Reading

Reading continues to be a vital part of education and we would ask that an adult hears your child read regularly at home and makes a note in the reading diary. In Year Two, as reading develops, it is equally important to discuss the text with your child as well as 'hear' them read, to develop their comprehension skills. We check the diaries every day and, on a Friday, we count up the number of times a child has read to an adult at home. If this is three times or more your child will be given a sticker as a 'Bookworm Award' culminating in an end of half term certificate.

Each time you record that your child has read to an adult at home, your child's diary is stamped with a *star*.

If your child reads 3 or more times a week they receive a 'I have read at home 3 times this week!' reading stamp in their diary.

If your child reads 3 times or more every week they will also receive a 'Star Reader' stamp. The stamps are awarded on Fridays.

At the end of the term, those children that have received a 'Star Reader' stamp **every week** will receive a special reading certificate to acknowledge and celebrate their hard work.

Children will continue to have an opportunity to change their books every morning, **whenever they have read to an adult**. We would also encourage the children to occasionally neatly write in their own diaries about what they have read and what they thought about it. We are also encouraging children to take a book from their classroom on a Friday for Fantastic Friday! These books are chosen by the children and we would encourage you to share these chosen books with your children for pleasure.

### Homework - Maths

We will be asking the children to complete tasks on the Mathletics websites (username and passwords given) that will help consolidate or extend your child's learning from in the classroom. We will cover the area of maths in class first then set the tasks to do at home. We will always pop a note in the diaries when tasks are set, but please feel free to do any other activities your child wishes to attempt.

Times Table Rockstars is always set up for your child to access when they wish.

### Homework - spellings

Spellings will follow the same format with weekly spellings and half termly common exception words to learn. This term it will be all the common exception words in the half termly tests. Tests will take place on a MONDAY in school. We do ask for spelling books to be returned to school as soon as you have celebrated the result with your child. Every three weeks a Spelling Shed activity will be set.

### Our Curriculum

**English** – English is taught daily as well as being embedded throughout all lessons. This term our genres are: stories in familiar settings, traditional stories, stories with a historical theme, an alternative version of a well-known story, recounts, diary entries, recounts and poetry. In Year Two we focus on correct letter formation to enable children to join their letters up. Children are encouraged to neatly write the date and title of their book in their reading diaries themselves when reading at home.

**Maths** – Maths continues to be taught as a lesson every day but we also try to include real life maths in the classroom as much as possible.

As usual, we will try to make lessons as practical as we can and incorporate maths into everyday life.

**History and Geography** – As already mentioned, our "Time Travellers" topic will focus on castles. Once we have found out when and why castles were first built, we will look at how they have changed over time, as well as castles from around the world. Our trip to Hedingham Castle will give the children a fantastic insight into castle life and help them to decide if castles were a good place to live.

**Science** – Our science topic is materials. Again, we will link this to our topic and looking at materials used in making things and how this has changed from the past.

**Computing** – We will recap on how to stay safe online, understanding the dangers and children should seek help if necessary. Our units are: Information technology around us; Identifying IT and how its responsible use improves our world in school and beyond. Digital photography; Capturing and changing digital photographs for different purposes.

**Art** – The children really enjoy their weekly art lessons and this term we will be using a variety of media to create work primarily linked to castles.

**Design and Technology** – In DT we are hoping to include a DT day to make some 3D castles. Further details will come out in due course.

**Physical Education – Outdoor PE** This will be taught by Premier Sports on Tuesdays and they will be following our curriculum of outdoor team games and ball skills.

Our Wednesday PE lesson will be looking at indoor games, looking at spatial awareness, muscle strength and team games.

**Religious Education** – In RE we will be looking at Christianity and the teachings of Jesus. We will be looking at big questions like “Is it possible to be kind all of the time?” We will also be looking at what Christians believe around Christmas and Why they believe God gave Jesus to the world.

**PSHE** – Our weekly PSHE lessons will be centred around the topics “Being Me in My World” – Who am I and what are my hopes and fears for the year ahead? We will also look at “Celebrating Difference” – Showing respect for similarities and differences and discussions around anti-bullying.

**Music and French** – These lessons will be taught weekly on a Thursday.

If you have any concerns, queries or information to share, please come and talk to us, email us or leave a message at the school office and we will contact you as soon as possible to arrange a mutually convenient appointment.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you all.

Mrs McIntosh  
Class Teacher