



Year 6- Falcon Class



Newsletter

Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your family had a relaxing summer break and are ready for the new school term. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead and working together with you to ensure that the children are happy and succeed in their learning.

This newsletter aims to inform you of the learning and routines of Falcon Class so that you are able to help your child settle into Year 6. If you have any questions, please do feel free to come and ask.

First week back and pick up

Thank you for your support and cooperation over the first few weeks back to school. Just like you, there are a few changes to routine that the school staff and children are working hard to follow to ensure we are all keeping safe at school and as we leave school. This does mean that we have to allow some time for us to embed these routines for our safety, for example the number of times we encourage our children to wash their hands and the picking up routine at home time. Please bear with us, I will let you know shortly when we are happy to allow your child to walk home by themselves, should you wish them to.

Communication

At present, I haven't been able to meet many parents, as I supervise the children

in the hall at the end of the day. I will be out on the front gates twice a week, so please do feel free to say hello if you are walking past.

If you do want to contact me, please feel free to leave a message with Mrs Phillips at the front gate, or email the Falcon email: falcon@stmarys.rbksch.org. I regularly use the class page on our school website to upload necessary tools to support learning in Year 6 and examples of the children's learning throughout the year.



Independent Reading

It is vital that children continue to develop their reading skills this year and we ask children to read at home for at least 15 minutes each day. Children may read books of their choice from home, school or the library. All children have been issued with a new reading record which should be brought to school each day- this is important as I select children to read to me each day. Please do ask questions to your child when you listen to them read using the reading comprehension bookmark from to help where necessary.

Reading records should be kept up to date by the children and we ask that parents sign the reading record each week to confirm that their child has completed their daily independent reading. We will check reading records each week on a Friday and provide opportunities for pupils who have not completed their reading at home to do so during lunchtime.

Home Learning

Children will be set home learning tasks every Thursday and have until the following Monday to complete the tasks and return their home learning to school. Children who have not completed home learning will be asked to do so in Home Learning Club on Monday lunchtime.

Having the need to adapt our communication during lockdown has enabled us to review our home learning routines and communication. We will no longer be giving homework books and may be setting more home learning online. If your child might struggle to access a computer at home, please let me know. We will send the instruction sheet via Parentmail each week, along with the weekly spellings. I will have a few paper copies for any child who wishes to take one home.

We want to support the children to succeed in their learning and therefore we may sometimes set test-style questions to consolidate the children's learning as well as to give them the opportunity to practise test-style questions at home. We encourage you to support your child with this where necessary.

Spelling home learning

In addition to the weekly home learning task, children will be given 'Words to Learn' spellings each week. Please practise these weekly as they will be tested on it each Friday. As part of reviewing our home learning, we will not be giving spelling homework books.

Additionally, we will be testing the children on the Year 5/6 End of Year spelling expectation words on a fortnightly basis. A copy of these can be found on the class page and I will send one home in due course. Please look at the weekly home learning overview to see which list your child is practising that week.

I am currently testing your child on the Year 3/4 End of Year spellings as a baseline. This will be shared with you once I have finished.

Times tables learning

Please encourage your child to practise their times tables. It is important for your child to practise their times tables each week to support the different areas of Maths learning in school.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle to keep in the classroom in addition to their lunchtime drink.



Fruit

Please provide a fresh fruit or vegetable snack for break time as school does not provide this to pupils in Key Stage 2.



P.E.

The class will have P.E. on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays**. As you know, we have asked for children to come to school in their full PE uniform. Earrings should be removed.

Please see below regarding the learning overview for this term.

Autumn Term Learning

Our topic themes for this term are:

Ancient Greece

What did they contribute to life in Europe?

- Literacy: Stories by significant authors (Shakespeare – Macbeth), fiction and poetry (linked to topic)
- Science: the travel of light
- History: sport, everyday lives, art and culture of Ancient Greece.
- Art: Pottery and sketching linked to Ancient Greece.
- Music: Charanga scheme.
- R.E. – How is God three in one?
- PSHE – New beginnings

The Victorians

How has life in Britain changed since the Victorian times?

- Literacy: Explanation linked to Victorian inventions, Choral and performance poetry: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas
- History – Daily Life in Victorian times – rich v. poor, education, inventions, Christmas celebrations
- Science- Electricity (explore variation in components in circuits.)
- R.E. – Who did Jesus say 'I AM'? What do the gospels say about the birth of Jesus?
- PSHE – Getting on and falling out

Our Maths work this term will be covering:

- Number and Place Value
- Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division
- Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
- Ratio and Proportion
- Algebra
- Measurement
- Properties of shapes
- Position and direction
- Statistics

Children will also have a 30 minute Spanish lesson each week, taught by a specialist language teacher.

Trips and Visits

When we know it is safe to do so, we will let you know about the organisation of trips in Year 6.

Parent Helpers

We welcome offers of help from parents who are willing to hear children read, test times tables, prepare resources and suchlike. For now, we are unable to have parent helpers on site, but we will let you know when we are ready to.

We hope you find the information in this newsletter useful. You are always welcome to contact us to discuss any concerns that you may have. Thank you for your continued support.

**Miss Hurdhan
(Falcon's Class Teacher)**

**Mrs Walter, Mrs Prior & Mrs Strong
(Teaching assistants in Year 6)**