

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and Happy New Year! We have a fantastic half term ahead with an abundance of fun and interesting learning opportunities to look forward to! We will begin the term with remote learning and I am pleased that Redwood Class had a chance to get used to the Zoom meets and working on SEESAW before the Christmas holidays.

**Curriculum:** For our topic this half term, we will be travelling back in time to the Stone Age. We will learn about this amazing era by taking part in classroom archaeological digs and exploring evidence found. We will learn about the daily lives of people by studying the World Heritage site Skara Brae, Europe's most complete Neolithic village and we will investigate the mysteries surrounding Stonehenge. At our Stone Age Forest School, as hunters and gatherers, we will learn the skills needed to survive using the natural resources around us. We will learn about the agricultural revolution of the Neolithic period and learn how farming changed lifestyles. We will plant our own crops and carry out plant investigations to find out how we can grow successful crops. Imagining we are part of the 'Beaker People culture', we will learn about Stone Age earthenware and create our own beakers using clay and prehistoric decoration. Be warned, we may be surprised by the mysteries we uncover and may not wish to return!

**Forest School:** Once back in school, we will continue to enjoy forest school every Thursday morning. Children may wear their base layers to school and keep them on for the rest of the day. Long sleeved tops, long trousers and waterproofs are essential, as is a change of shoes for your child to change into when back at school. The weather will still be cold so winter hats, gloves, scarves and extra layers will be also be needed.



**PE:** PE will continue to take place on Fridays in the school hall. Your child will need to bring a named PE kit of T-shirt, shorts and trainers/pumps to school on this day each week.

**Reading:** Your child will take part in guided reading once a week and additional skills-based reading sessions during the week.



Your child will be able to change completed reading books when needed as soon as they come into school each day. Please continue to read with your child regularly (paired reading is a good approach to use as the texts become longer) and also encourage your child to start writing the date, pages read and an occasional comment in their reading diaries themselves. On-going assessments will be completed and your child will move book colour bands when appropriate.

**Doodle:** Your child will have access to a Doodle account to practise spelling, maths and multiplication in school and at home. This is a fantastic way to help your child learn and remember key skills.

**'Beat That!'** By the end of Year 4 all children are expected to know times tables up to 12x12 and Year 4 children will undertake a multiplication tables check in June. Your child will have a 'times table of the week' and will bring home multiplication homework to complete ready for a times table 'Beat that!' challenge each Monday. The soundcheck game on TT Rockstars is similar to the multiplication check, so a good way for your child to familiarise themselves with what is expected.



**Spelling:** Your child's weekly spelling list will be uploaded onto seesaw and used in the classroom. In school, we enjoy playing spelling games such as spelling tennis and hangman as well as writing the focused words in different ways such as in spelling triangles, using SACAWACAR (say and cover and write and check and remember) and in different shapes. To develop understanding of words, we 'walk around the word' and jot down everything we know about it such as: number of letters, words within the word, number of syllables, its meaning, synonyms, its origin, whether or not it is a member of a word family or has a suffix, a prefix and a root word. Please feel free to use the red homework book to complete any spelling games or writing activities that you would like to do with your child during the week.

**Homework Take Away:** The homework suggestions are given to support your child's own interests and learning at home but please feel free to also be as creative as you and your child like! Your child is expected to choose two or more homework options from the homework take away menu each half term which can be brought into school on any Friday ready for our homework celebration.



As always, if you would like to contact me, please send messages on seesaw or catch me at the school gate once the children are dismissed. Here's to an exciting term!

Kind Regards, Mrs Norman