

### Elder class

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a fantastic break and got lots of rest, relaxation and enjoyed the amazing weather! It is hard to believe that it is already the last term of the year, where has that gone? As always, this newsletter is to remind you of some of the important dates and events coming up this term so that you can be fully prepared and informed.

Don't forget to keep an eye on WEDUC for all the latest news and updates regarding events happening at Wygate Park and you can now follow us on Twitter using the Twitter handle @MrThomp24 to see some of the amazing things the children are doing in class.

Thank you, as always, for you continuing to support your children and the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Thompson

### Important dates and information

#### Our Mars experiment

The Elder class have been chosen as part of 100 schools to send a science experiment 99% above the Earth's atmosphere. The experiment will be exposed to conditions like those on Mars (-50 temperature and pressure to name a couple) and hopes to help scientists develop an understanding of conditions on Mars to help with future exploration. The children wanted to know if the conditions effect the growth of seeds. Therefore, they have sent 3 sets of seeds (wheat, corn and sunflower) to be flown 99% of above the atmosphere and when they return, we will plant them to see if the conditions on Mars affect growth. Keep an eye on Twitter for the latest news regarding the experiment.

#### Bikeability

Bikeability lessons will take place week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> July for four mornings. The children have been given a letter explaining what the Bikeability course will entail and the areas of cycling safety they will look at throughout the course. Any children not taking part will continue in lessons like normal.

It is also important to stress that at the end of level 1, any children who are not considered safe enough to continue the course out on the roads will join the children who are not taking part in lessons. This decision will be made by the instructors and will be based on the safety on the children.

If you have any questions/problems please do not hesitate to get in touch.

#### Reading Books

We strongly recommend that the children read a minimum of three times a week to support their progression. Any children who read at least three times will receive carrot points as a reward. Your child has been allocated a banded book and a book from the level above (to further push their reading) and have selected their own book, which they would like to read for pleasure. All books must be brought in daily. Once you child has finished their book, they can place it in the book changing tray and we will change it for them.

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We are currently trialing an app called Go Read which will replace reading records (letters will be sent home and a notification on WEDUC in due course). This will replace the Reading Records and children/parents/teachers can simply scan the barcode of the book they are reading and it will register it on the website. If you have any questions or problems, please let me know.

Children also have access to Reading Eggs to further develop their reading, they can read books based on a range of topics and then take part in quizzes to support the development of their comprehension and understanding skills as well as the VIPERS skills we use in school. If your child doesn't know their log-in, please let me know and we will get it to them.

### Attendance

The national average for attendance is 96%. This would equate to around 7 days off a year. If your child has a medical appointment, please make sure that you tell Mrs Warrington or Mrs Cross in the office and show them your appointment card. Any queries, please do not hesitate to ask to speak to myself, Mrs Warrington, or Mrs Cross.

### P.E. kits

All children must bring a P.E. to school. P.E. this term will be on a Tuesday. We respectfully ask all parents and carers to check that their children have labels in their kit with their name on or that their name is written on the labels in fabric pen. If anyone has taken home the wrong kit by mistake, then please could they return it as soon as possible.

### Homework

Homework will be set on a Friday and is due in every Wednesday. The homework is always explained to the children, however, if the children or parents have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and see me and I will be happy to run through the work. A copy of the Pick and Mix grid can also be found on the school website.

### Topic

Our Topic this term will continue to focus on Ancient Greece. The children will be looking at significant inventions from Ancient Greek times and how they have influenced inventions they use today, the importance of Alexandra the Great and Greek Myths and Legends. As well as this, we will celebrate heritage week by looking at the history of the road names surrounding the school and the road names they live on.

At the end of the topic, I also hope to run a Greek Party full of Greek cultures (music, food, games etc). Once organised, I will send a message out on WEDUC and Twitter.

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### Science

In Science this term, the children will be looking at Animals including Humans. This links very closely to the amazing work they did last term in Living Things and Their Habitats as they will be comparing different lifecycles and also learning how plants reproduce.

### Spelling Journal

Spellings are set every Monday and the weekly spelling quiz will be on the following Monday. The children will write their spelling scores in their spelling journal and will also be put on WEDUC for the children to practice at home.

The children also have access to Spelling Shed which will have online tasks which are focused on the weeks spelling rule.

### Water Bottles

As the temperature starts to get warmer, it is important that children have a water bottle in school. The bottle will be kept in the water bottle box which will also be taken outside at break and lunchtime. Please ensure that it is just water as squash and fizzy drinks are not permitted in the classroom. Can you please ensure all children's water bottles are named so we can easily tell who they belong to.

### Parent Pay

If you have any issues throughout the year with Parent Pay, please see Mrs Warrington or Mrs Cross at the office. Regarding breakfast and after school club, you are required to book via Parent pay in advance.

### Appointments

If you wish to speak to me, then please arrange an appointment at the office with Mrs Warrington or Mrs Cross. I will be more than happy to meet with you and discuss any issues or problems that may arise.

### Doors

To facilitate a safe arrival and departure of children and to avoid, wherever possible, the mixing of 'class bubbles' the school will need to continue with the staggered start and finish times of the school day. Therefore, the doors will open for Year 5 to start school between 8:50am and 9:00am and will reopen at the end of the day at 3:20.

Any children with younger siblings can enter school at the same time as them (through the Elder class door not the sibling classroom door) and any children who are walking home MUST have given parental consent via the office.

### Weduc

Please keep an eye on Weduc as any important information, notices and letters will be posted on the app. You will also need to sign the children up for breakfast and after school clubs using the app as well as any sports clubs that Elite Sports put on. If you have any issues/problems with accessing Weduc please see Mrs Warrington or Miss Norman in the office.

Elder classTwitter

The Elder class are now on Twitter. Like Weduc, we will post important information, notices, and letters as well as pictures to show off the amazing work the children do in class. If you want to follow us on Twitter, search for @MrThomp24 and click on the follow link.

Carrot rewards

Carrot rewards is now up and running throughout the school and the children are working incredibly hard to earn Carrot Points. If you have not done so already – when the children log in for the first time, they will be a screen that asks for parental consent please could I ask that you add your details and give consent so your child can access Carrot Rewards and the shop features.

Any questions or problems, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me.

Last day of term.

The last day of term and year is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.