**BADGER’S AUTUMN 2 NEWSLETTER 2018**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a fantastic half-term and are ready for an exciting, fun-filled autumn term 2! I thoroughly enjoyed last term and our journey to WW2. However, we are now ready for the next chapter of the year.

**This half term, we’re going on a journey to the other side of the world to learn all about Mexico.** We will watch a traditional Mexican performance and join in with percussion instruments. To cool down afterwards, we will have a refreshing drink of sangrita or limeade. We’ll use non-fiction books to find out about the importance of music in Mexican culture and will learn the Mexican Hat Dance. Using our literacy skills, we will write our own persuasive travel brochures. In preparation, we will make delicious drinks and savoury dishes. We will learn about the ‘Day of the Dead’ which our art will also be focused upon. We will read Mayan myths and legends and write our own. Using maps, we’ll locate Mexico and explore its natural features. We’ll discover what daily life is like and how it has changed over time as well as comparing it to our everyday life.

**New staff –** I am happy to announce that Miss Perry-Mason (a Trainee Teacher from the University of Chichester) will now be working with us in year 6 until the end of the year.

**Guided Reading -** We are reading Holes by Louis Sacher. Please feel free to buy your child their own copy to enjoy in these sessions.

**Targets** - All children will be given targets for English and Maths to support their learning. Their targets will be changing frequently so it will be difficult to send them home. However, you are more than welcome to pop in and look at your child’s books to keep up to date with their learning.

**Homework** – I will be handing out homework on Mondays and should be handed in by Friday. Homework club will be every Thursday lunch time should your child wish to join. If your child repeatedly forgets to hand in their homework, they will be encouraged to attend homework club.

**Spellings** – I will send spellings home with the children every Monday (in their homework folder) and we will have regular spellings activities in school as well. There will be a formal spelling test the following Monday every week. Some children may also receive additional spellings as part of an intervention.

**PE** - PE kit is needed for Monday and Thursdays please. As the weather is changing, please ensure your child has warmer clothing as we will be outside in most weather conditions.

**Forest Schools –** This term Year 6 have Forest Schools on Tuesday afternoons and will need to bring warm clothes and be prepared as the weather is now getting considerably colder.

Parent volunteers who support our curriculum themes, reading and invaluable school trips are an essential asset to our school, that benefits children greatly. Please do get in touch if you think you can help in any way. If you have any first-hand experience related to our theme ‘Ola Mexico which you would be happy to share with the children, please let me know!

If you have any concerns or wish to discuss anything about your child, please do not hesitate to come and see me. You can either catch me at the door (in the morning or after school) or alternatively leave a message at the office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

We have an exciting topic ahead of us with lots of interesting activities which I know the children are excited about, but we must remember this is a very important year. The start of this year has been fantastic for Badgers and it has not gone unnoticed by the rest of the school. I am so very proud of each one of your children. I hope this will continue a happy and successful year for all.

Best wishes,

Miss E Stocker