



Fernhurst Primary School

Haslemere Road . Fernhurst . Surrey . GU27 3EA . Tel: 01428 653144
www.fernhurst.w-sussex.sch.uk

10th September 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Owls Class! I hope you all had a fantastic summer break and that you are looking forward to the start of a new school year. It has been great to get to know some of you over the past few days and I look forward to meeting all of you properly as the term progresses. The children are now starting to settle into new routines, topics and learning. We have an exciting year ahead!

During the first week of this year, our whole school topic focus was the book 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan, but now we're moving onto a class theme called 'Wriggle and Crawl' for the remainder of the half term. We will be heading outside on minibeast safaris, looking for the little creatures which live around our school grounds as well as heading to Pulborough Brooks Nature Reserve to explore their special habitats too (letter coming soon). We'll have plenty of Art, Science, DT and Geography to do, as well as some interesting PSHE about 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird'. In Maths we'll be building on our understanding of place value and number skills, whilst in English we'll be writing our own bug stories; writing instructions inspired by "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and writing our own poems about creepy crawlies. I have attached a topic web for the 'Wriggle and Crawl' theme to this letter, so you can see what we'll be getting up to in class.

Working in Owls with me this year is Mrs Woods! On Wednesday afternoons, I have my Planning, Preparation and Assessment time out of class. For this half term, Mrs Gibbon will be teaching the children Music, in addition to a weekly PSHE lesson with Mrs Bell. She and I are working closely together to maintain continuity during these periods and to ensure the children get as much out of this time as possible.

Homework has changed this year throughout the school. There will be no topic based grid homework this year - Children in Year 2 should be practicing their 2, 5 and 10 times tables weekly, in preparation for weekly times tables tests beginning after the Christmas Holidays. Spellings for each week will be given out at the beginning of each half term and will be tested on a Monday. Most importantly, children should be reading at home daily. This helps them practice their phonics; develop their fluency and begin to build their comprehension skills. I have attached to this newsletter a scan of a reading record from last year's Owls Class to show what kind of recording within the reading records is most helpful for us to see how they're getting on. I will endeavour to assess all of the children's reading within the first couple of weeks with our Benchmarking system to ensure they are reading books from the correct book band.

Please ensure your child has a full P.E. kit in school on Monday ready for PE lessons during the week. As the weather begins to change, it is advisable to include both

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shorts and tracksuit bottoms in your child's kit as we will try to go outside when we can. If you do not already, please provide your child with a full water bottle separate to their lunch box drink, which they can access and refill throughout the day. The children get thirsty as they have an energetic day and benefit from a drink to maintain their focus and boost their energy.

The children enjoy and greatly benefit from lovely parent volunteers who support our curriculum themes, reading and invaluable school trips. 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 'Wriggle and Crawl' which you would be happy to share with the children, please let me know!

Please don't hesitate to come and see me if you have any concerns or wish to discuss anything about your child. You can 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 year ahead of us with lots of interesting topics and opportunities. I look forward to working with you and your child this academic year – I hope this will be a happy and successful year for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Miss A Barnes