



COUNTESS GYTHA
PRIMARY SCHOOL &
FOUNDATION UNIT

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Mrs Lisa Goodland Headteacher

Spring Term Newsletter 2019

Excalibur Class – Year 4 & 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term, and may we take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year. The children have returned to school refreshed and with a 'spring in their step', engaging fully and enthusiastically in the curriculum. The week this term will be split between us both as follows: Mrs Trusson Monday-Thursday and Mrs Spike Friday.

Like last term, we have included some useful information and reminders about routines and structure in Excalibur Class class as well as our learning for this term.

This term we have lots of exciting learning ahead of us through our topic:

Anyone for Tea?



Our topic this term is geography based focussing on India. We will be travelling through the country looking at India's physical features rivers, mountains and the weather and ending our journey at a tea plantation looking at the trade India provides and answering our question Anyone for Tea? We will conclude the topic by an Indian banquet!

Please also find attached this terms topic map with further details of the children's learning.

To help parents and children with the new routines of Excalibur Class, we thought it would be useful to let you have some information about the procedures and routines this year. You will also find a quick summary of these 'Weekly Reminders' on the back of your topic map – ideal for those hurried last minute checks in the morning!

Reading

It is still vitally important that your child reads regularly at home, and this should include reading to an adult. We aim for your child to read every day, however we would strongly recommend at least 3 times a week. Please continue to sign the reading rocket book mark, every day your child reads at home. Please ensure you do not sign more than once a day, as the bookmark is a 'counter' for how many days your child reads so if your child happens to read more than once a day, can they please record the page numbers along the same row on the bookmark.

Homework

Spelling lists will continue to be set every Monday and tested the following Monday. Likewise, maths homework will continue to be set every Monday and handed in the following Monday. The class are highly motivated by the Mental Maths Olympics and we will continue to test these weekly - every Monday. Please encourage your child to regularly practise these as they are readily available to the children.

PE

This term, Premier Sports sessions will continue to be on a **Wednesday** and we will be improving our fitness levels by completing circuit training on a Monday afternoon. Whenever possible PE lessons will be outside, so please ensure that your child brings track-suit bottoms and a warm top as well as the standard PE kit (see school website for more details).

No Toys in School

Please remember that we request that toys are not brought to school. This is purely due to children becoming upset when toys go missing or get broken. This does not include balls for morning play, we still encourage the children to bring a tennis ball in for use on the playground, and in due course a large ball for the field. We continue to have a NO BALL FRIDAY rule.

Birthday Party Invitations and Correspondences

Thank you for your understanding with the issuing of invites and correspondence. This has been successful through the Autumn Term, so we will continue to ask that party invitations/cards are given out to children before or after school to avoid disappointment if not receiving an invitation.

.Celebration Assembly

The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed coming together on a Friday afternoon to celebrate the children's achievements for the week. Celebration Assemblies will continue to be held every Friday. Do keep sending in the childrens certificates earned outside of school, we have loved seeing them. Children can hand in certificates, medals etc. to us on a Friday morning.

Healthy Snacks and Water Bottles

Children are encouraged to bring in their own piece of fruit or healthy snack for morning break. Please can you ensure that your child brings in a clearly labelled bottle of fresh drink (not fizzy) every day. Healthy Tuck continues to be available to buy every Thursday breaktime

Coats

Children must have a coat in school, as although it is the spring term, the weather is still changeable. If they have a waterproof coat in school, this allows them to go outside even when it is drizzling.

Medical

Only prescribed medicine in the original container can be administered and an authorisation form needs to be completed; these can be obtained from the School Office. Please note if your child uses an inhaler it must be kept in our class medical box. In line with our school policy, should your child receive a head injury you will receive a red 'bumped head' letter at the end of the day from a member of staff (parents of children on the school bus will be contacted to inform them of the bumped head letter). Should the injury be more severe you will be contacted by telephone.

Outdoor Learning

We have opportunities to learn outside so it would be helpful if your child keeps a named pair of wellies at school. More information about specific days will follow.

Messages

Mornings continue to be very busy, so please make use of our Class Message Book, which is still held at Reception. This is particularly helpful for letting me know if your child is going home with someone else that evening.

KS2 Morning Routine

As a reminder, the classroom is open from 8.50am (except on wet days, when it is open from 8.45am). Please can we ask that all parents leave the school premises via the playground before the gates close at 9am.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding in these matters. If you have any questions or concerns, please do come in and see either of us.

Kind regards,

Mrs Trusson & Mrs Spike

Excalibur Class