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Spring Term Newsletter 2019 Lancelot Class – Year 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term. We have had a fantastic Autumn Term and I am sure that the children will continue to approach school with the same enthusiasm and positivity in their final few terms at Countess Gytha.

Working alongside me in Lancelot Class are Mrs Collins and Mrs Hoddinott.

Our topic this term is:

Which would you rather be...HIGH or LOW?



This topic will be Geography based and we be considering how our question applies to various aspects of life in India. We will find out about the highs and lows within the landscape, the climate and daily life. Our research will develop our understanding of how diverse modern day India is. During RE lessons we will discover more about Hinduism and we will learn about the history of the Caste system in India. Whenever possible we will use our India theme within our English lessons. In Art we will use canvas, acrylic paint and collage materials to create portraits of Rama and Sita. Our DT work will focus on traditional Indian food and we will have fun trying out some recipes. We will develop our Computing skills creating travel blogs about India. Science will build upon and develop further our knowledge about animals including humans. Please find attached this term's Topic Map with further details of the children's learning.

On a Wednesday afternoon this term, Lancelot class will continue to have Spanish lessons with Mrs Collins and music lessons with Mrs Boniface. PE lessons will be led by Premier Sports.

To help you with the routines of Lancelot Class I thought it would be useful to let you have updated information about the procedures and routines this term. 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!

Lancelot Class Reminders

Reading

Thank you for supporting your child by encouraging them to read. Reading books, along with the reading rocket bookmark, should be brought to school and taken home every day. Children should read a minimum of 3 times a week, including some reading to an adult. Please could you sign the reading rocket bookmark every day your child reads at home. Your child may also record their reading at school on the bookmark, however, only one adult signed read per day will count towards the reading Rocket Certificate. A small prize and certificate will be presented every 30 daily reads achieved.

Homework

English

In addition to being encouraged to read at home regularly, children will also receive the following weekly homework:

Spelling:

Lists will be given whenever possible **every Friday** and **tested the following Friday**. We would encourage spellings to be learned/looked at everyday. They will be accompanied by an activity sheet to support your child in learning their spellings. This will need to be completed and returned by Friday. You may wish for your child to use this free online resource for the daily practice of the year 5 and 6 spelling lists: <http://spellingframe.co.uk/> - just 10 minutes a day on this could make a real difference.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar:

Each **Friday** your child will bring home their **CGP English Book**. They need to complete the listed pages and return their book to school by the following **WEDNESDAY**. Please make sure your child returns their homework on time so that Mrs Collins and I have time to support children with misconceptions/errors, before the books need to go home again.

Maths

Mental Maths Olympics:

MMO sheets will be given out every **Monday** and should be returned to school by **Friday** which will also be test day. These will also be practised in school during the week. If your child would like to bring home additional sheets for regular practise they will be readily available. Please encourage your child to learn their tables and be able to apply their knowledge to questions.

Maths Skills Practice:

Each **Friday** your child will bring home their **CGP Maths Book**. They need to complete the listed pages and return their book to school by the following **WEDNESDAY**. Please make sure your child returns their homework on time so that Mrs Collins and I have time to support children with misconceptions/errors, before the books need to go home again.

PE

This term, Premier Sports sessions will continue on a **Wednesday**. Our intention is to utilise the outdoor area as much as possible, 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). Please make sure all items of clothing are clearly named. Every Wednesday children will come home in their PE kit but please ensure they return their PE kits to school the next day.

No Toys in School

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 encourage the children to bring a large ball in for the field, or a tennis ball for the playground. We have a NO BALL FRIDAY rule.

Birthday Party Invitations and Correspondence

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 enjoyed coming together on a Friday afternoon to celebrate the children's achievements. We love to see any certificates and medals earned outside of school so please keep sending them in.

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 bottle of fresh water each day. Your child will be able to refill their bottle in school when needed. **Please make sure that the bottle is named to save confusion when children have the same bottle.** Healthy Tuck continues to be available to buy every Thursday breaktime.

Coats

Although it is the Spring Term, the weather is still changeable so please can you ensure that your child has a waterproof coat in school EVERY day. Even when the weather appears fine in the morning, it can often change during the day. 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

Children need to have wellies in school every Tuesday so that we can make the most of our Outdoor Learning opportunities.

SATS

The children have been working hard in preparation for SATs week (commencing 13th May) and I appreciate all the support you are giving them with their homework. Our regular practices of SATs style questions is helping to give them confidence to approach new questions.

Later in the term, I will be inviting you in to school for a short meeting to give you information as we prepare for SATs. This will be followed by a briefing giving you further details about our Beam House residential (8th – 12th July) including kit lists and the types of activities that we will be taking part in.

Start of the school day

As a reminder, the classroom is open for the children from 8.50am, except when it is raining heavily and the children can come in from 8.45am. It is important that your child is in the classroom on time, ready to start the school day at 9am. Please can we ask that all parents have left the school premises via the playground before the gates are locked at 9am. Thank you.

Messages

A class book is kept at the school office and any messages from this will be passed to the class teacher in the morning. Please ensure if your child is being collected by someone else the teacher is notified.

At Countess Gytha we value the support that parents/carers are able to give to the home/school partnership. Please let me know if there is any change in your child's home environment that may affect their learning or behaviour at school. If you are concerned in any way about your child then please don't hesitate to contact me. In addition, please take the opportunity to attend the parents' evening during this term.

Kind regards,

Mrs Holbrook
Lancelot Class Teacher