



COUNTESS GYTHA
PRIMARY SCHOOL &
FOUNDATION UNIT

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Mrs Lisa Goodland Headteacher

Spring Term Newsletter 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Merlin Class

I hope you have all had a great Christmas and everyone is feeling refreshed and excited about the start of a new calendar year.

I am very excited to tell you that the topics this term are called:

Spring Term 1

Who are you going to call?



'Who are you going to call?' encompasses: talking about people who help us in school; people who help us keep safe; people who help us keep healthy; people who help in the community and people who help care for and rescue animals. During Spring 1 we will be welcoming a number of visitors to help bring our topic alive.

Spring Term 2

Drip, drop when will it stop?



'Drip, drop when will it stop?' we will be looking at: different types of weather. We will be comparing the weather in Africa to the weather in England.

Attached is the topic map which further details the learning the children will experience as part of their topics this Spring Term.

To support our learning in this area we will be off on a school trip later on in the Spring Term. More information to follow.

As I did in the Autumn Term I have provided you with some useful information about class procedures and routines in Merlin class.

Changing Reading Books – Year Reception

It is still vitally important that your child reads regularly at home, and this should include reading to an adult. I would strongly recommend at least 3 times a week. Please continue to record these times in your child's reading record. Book change day will continue to either be on a **Monday** or a **Wednesday** please see table below.

| Monday | Wednesday |
|---------------|------------------|
| Jack | Alex D |
| James | Alex F |
| Layton | Alfie |
| Lucy | Archie |
| Noah | Eligh |
| Rosie-May | Elizabeth |
| Rothen | Evie |
| Sam | George |
| Thomas | Henry |
| Tommy | Imogen |
| Wesley | Isabelle |

Homework

Homework will continue in the same format as last term where the focus is on reading, spelling and learning the High Frequency and Keywords. Homework will be checked on a Thursday and new homework will be issued on a Friday.

PE

This term Merlin Class will continue to have their PE on **Wednesday** mornings with a sports coach from Premier Sport. Please can you ensure that all PE and school uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name. The children will take their kits home at the end of each half term.

No Toys in School

We request that toys are not brought to school unless they are our special comfort toys that can hide in our drawers unless we need them. 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 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 children's certificates earned outside of school, we have loved seeing them. Children can hand in certificates, medals etc. to me on a Friday morning.

Show and Tell

'Show and Tell' will continue to be on a Friday, please see the table below for your child's 'Show and Tell' day. To develop 'Show and Tell' I would like to encourage the children where possible to bring something in that links with our topic or to talk about an experience. For example, if they have visited the seaside to bring in photos, postcards or shells so that they can talk about where they have been and what they have seen.

'Show and Tell' Table

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 18/1/19 15/2/19 22/3/19 | 25/1/19 1/3/19 29/3/19 | 1/2/19 8/3/19 5/3/19 | 8/2/19 15/3/19 5/3/19 |
| Alex D Alex F Alfie Archie Elizabeth | Evie George Henry Imogen Isabelle | Jack James Layton Lucy Noah Rosie-May | Rothen Sam Thomas Tommy Wesley |

Snack Time

Every day we have snack available for the children. The snack is funded by the Government. They supply things like: apples, pears, satsumas, bananas, carrots and so on. Different fruit and vegetables are sent to school on different days of the week and this varies weekly. If you feel that your child will not eat the fruit and vegetables supplied, then please bring in a piece or pieces of fruit or vegetables prepared in a named pot. Healthy Tuck Shop will continue to be run on Thursdays.

Milk is supplied free of charge until your child's fifth birthday. If you feel this is something you would like to carry on doing past their fifth birthday you will need to organise this in liaison with the school office. You will need to deal directly with the company that delivers the milk, the school office will be able to assist you in doing so.

Drinks Bottles

Please can you ensure that your child brings in a bottle of fresh water each day. Mrs Elsworth and I will refill your child's bottle in school when needed.

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 and Wet Weather Clothes

The weather in the Spring term is still very changeable so please can you make sure that your child is prepared for all weathers and comes to school suitably dressed for the cold, rain or sun. Children must have waterproof coats with hoods on in school at all times. Please can you also make sure that your child has a pair of wellies, labelled. This term I would very much like to take the children on a welly walk. I can only do this if we are fully prepared to go with a waterproof coat with a hood and wellies.

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.

Messages

Mornings continue to be very busy, so if you have any message please make use of the Class Message Book, which is held in the school's main reception area. This is particularly helpful for letting me know if your child is going home with someone else that evening.

Thank you for your support and understanding in these matters and please do not hesitate to speak to any of us in the morning or after school if you have any concerns or questions.

Kind Regards,

Miss Grant and Mrs Elsworth

Countess Gytha Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons. We will ensure that the highest priority is given to following guidance and regulations to safeguard children and young people. The school expects all staff and all visitors to fulfil this expectation.

What will I need for school today?

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Monday</u> | Owl to return to school | | | |
| <u>Tuesday</u> | | | | |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | PE | | | |
| <u>Thursday</u> | Healthy Tuck Shop | Homework taken in | | |
| <u>Friday</u> | Show and Tell | No balls in school | Celebration Assembly | Homework taken given back out |