

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! It has been a lovely first few days getting to know the new Zebra Class. This newsletter contains important information for the year and expectations for reading, spellings and times tables at home.

Reading:

In Zebra Class we expect you to hear your child read at home 3x weekly for 15 minutes as a minimum. However, ideally this would be for a short period every day to really maximise their fluency and comprehension (understanding of what they have read). Please note in the new reading records when your child has read. I will check this weekly. In class we do a mixture of whole class reading lessons, small group reading and 1:1 reading throughout the week. As pupils become more fluent readers who show good understanding of what they have read they will be able to choose their own reading books from the school library. All books in the library are numbered and I will give pupils a range (e.g. 2.5-2.8) to ensure they are reading books suitable to their ability.

We are lucky to have Pickles the PAT (Pet Assisted Therapy) dog coming in to hear readers weekly starting from w.b. 25.9.23. Please be assured that as a registered PAT dog Pickles is vaccinated, wormed and flea protected in accordance with their policy. Pickles will be on a lead at all times with his owner, and will listen to each pupil for a maximum of 15 minutes before being given a break. After interacting with Pickles pupils will wash or sanitise their hands. In order for your child to benefit from our wonderful reading dog we need consent from parents/carers, please click the link below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdV6LgxAPhV3p_eGET2crkEMofxuvnb4RgBUxHddY2gUP-Qpg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Of course please let us know if your child has an allergy or is afraid of dogs.

Spellings:

Spelling Shed will replace the weekly spelling test, but does not make practising any less important! It is an interactive and fun way to learn spellings through online games. Please aim for a minimum of 3x weekly for 5 minutes at a time.

Times tables:

Times Table Rockstars replaces Numbots for KS2 pupils. Again, please aim for 3x weekly, though we have seen great progress from pupils who play more often than this. Once we are all set up I will set class tournaments so pupils can compete against their peers. Please note this is usually based on how long pupils are practising (playing) for rather than how many questions they have got correct... practise makes perfect! We will celebrate our successes in class.

Login details for Spelling Shed and Times Table Rockstars are in the front of your child's new reading record – these will be sent home at the end of the week.

As per the letter sent in Term 5 of the last academic year there will be no additional weekly 'homework' tasks. However, if pupils want to share anything they have worked on at home relating to our learning I am more than happy for them to bring this in to show the class.

General notices:

- PE will be on Wednesdays - kits can stay in school and just go home at half term.
- Water bottle, reading book(s) and reading record need to come in to school daily.
- Pencil cases should contain a handwriting pen, pencil, ruler, sharpener and rubber. Colouring pencils are optional, but please no colouring pens or gel pens.
- Pupils needs a healthy morning snack as they no longer receive the free fruit from the government scheme.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. I hope we have a fun year filled with great progress! Please feel free to contact me via studybugs (FAO Miss Goodsell as the title - I will check this daily), or on the gate at the end of the day. Don't forget - Tuesday 12th September 3:20-4pm we are holding a 'meet the teacher' session where you are welcome to come into the school to say hello and see our classroom. Your child can then tour you around the school and show you their learning journey so far.

Best wishes,

Miss Goodsell and the Zebra Class team