

9 January 2009

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome back after a much needed Christmas break and let us move into the New Year with as much energy - and hopefully as much enjoyment - as we tackled the Autumn term.

English is following the guidelines set out in the National Primary Strategy Framework, using a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts, and will cover all aspects of your child's development in English. Spellings will be sent home on Monday for children to learn in preparation for a test the following Friday. Guided reading will be undertaken regularly, either on an individual or group basis, but any additional support you are able to give your child in this area is extremely valuable.

Mathematics also follows the guidelines of the National Primary Strategy Framework and will build on children's skills developed during Key Stage 1.

Our Science topic for the first part of the term is Forces and movement, to be followed after half term by a block of work on Electricity.

Humanities (Geography and History) have closely linked themes, exploring as they do the reasons behind settlements developing in particular places, and focusing from a historical perspective on the settlement by Saxons of our local area. Your child may already be asking for information on your own family's reasons for settling in Shotley, as we draw in PHSE to these investigations.

In addition we have a full programme of RE, Art, DT, Music and ICT, both as a subject on its own and as an integral part of all our other subject areas.

PE will still take place on Wednesday, but the Friday 'slot' has been replaced for this half term by Monday's swimming lesson. After half term we will return to our customary Wednesday and Friday PE lessons. Please ensure that your child has kit at school on PE days, including plimsolls/trainers. We will be practising hockey skills and once these are incorporated in a game of Unihoc, appropriate footwear saves many a bruised toe! If your child has pierced ears please also ensure that earrings are either removed or covered with tape on PE days.

Homework will be sent home on a weekly basis, on a Friday, for completion by the following Thursday. This will mainly be English or Mathematics based but may, on occasion, relate to another subject.

We encourage children to take regular small drinks of water during the day as this has been shown to be of great benefit both to children's health and their powers of concentration. Water (not juice or squash) should be brought in a named plastic bottle and will be available at regular intervals throughout the day. Drinks of squash or juice should be for lunchtimes only.

If anyone wishes to see me to discuss anything in connection with their child, they are more than welcome, but please make an appointment so that we can meet at a mutually convenient time.

Finally, very many thanks for your offers of help, either on a regular or one-off basis. I find such support invaluable and you are most welcome. Just let me know.

Carol Eldridge
Class Teacher