

Welcome to Kingfishers

Class Information

September 2023



Welcome to Kingfisher Class! We hope you have all had a fun and restful summer holiday and that your child has settled back into the school routine. We feel privileged to be given such a brilliant bunch of young people to work with. They are full of ideas, creative, kind and fun. We are excited for this upcoming academic year and look forward to creating a safe, purposeful and creative learning environment for your child to thrive.

In our team we have Miss Scholz, Miss Heike and Miss Rutherford. We are all enjoying working with your enthusiastic and creative children and are here to help at any time.

General

If you would like to contact us for any reason, please use the school admin email and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We will also be available for messages and general enquiries at the end of the school day.

There are two formal parents' evenings during the year. The first ones will be held on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th October 2023. We will call register each morning just after 8:50am which will promptly be followed by lessons. Your child will need to be in the classroom by then to ensure they do not miss any announcements or learning time.

You will be aware that we are a uniform school and that wearing uniform is actively encouraged, fostering pride in the school. Children should be encouraged to be smart and presentable at all times and should wear sensible black shoes (not trainers).

Please ensure sure that your child comes to school with appropriate clothing for the weather, particularly on days of adverse weather. Children will play outside at break and lunch times as much as the weather allows, so a coat will be required if it is wet.

Your child should be fully equipped for their school day. This will include ensuring that every child has their book bag and reading record in school every day. Please can you also send in a water bottle each day for your child to have access to during lessons. These should be taken home at the end of each day and fresh water sent in. Frequent access to water improves concentration and encourages good health. I also ask that if snacks are sent in, that these are healthy and nut-free. No crisps, chocolate or cakes please. There is also fruit provided if your child would like a piece at snack time.

English

We have a full and exciting curriculum to tackle once again. We continue to focus on depth in each subject rather than breadth. The children will hopefully have a deep or thorough knowledge of these areas rather than knowing a little about everything!

English is taught daily but there will also be additional sessions focusing on spelling, grammar, comprehension and handwriting. The children will explore a wide range of text types to link their writing to during the year and their reading and writing skills will be developed and extended. The children will be expected to write independently, editing and improving their writing as part of the process.

The children will also undertake reading comprehension exercises. It is beyond doubt that the most beneficial way of helping your child make progress is to regularly support their reading at home, both hearing them read and being read to. This is our main homework focus. We would really appreciate your support with this. If your child is reluctant to read at home or if you want support, please come and see me.

Maths

Maths is also taught daily. Our aim is to ensure that the children are confident handling numbers and completing calculations and that they progress only when their understanding is completely secure. If the formal strategies they are using are unfamiliar, or you would like strategies clarified, please don't hesitate to see me.

In Maths, we use the White Rose Scheme as a basis and the children will develop their skills through a mixture of activities, including formal written lessons, investigations, practical activities and games.

We will begin to use Timetables Rock Stars in school, with regular short tests to check their understanding and progress. Each child will have a times table rockstars login to use at home, more information on this can be found in the homework section of this letter.

Topic Work

For History and Geography this term, the children will be learning about Water and the Romans. Please ask your children about the key vocabulary for these subjects and encourage them to read around the subject at home.

In Science we are learning about animals and humans. We will identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals and think about ways to survive. We will also study the human body and explore what we need to live. Please feel free to support your children at home by exploring the animals in your neighbourhoods.

P.E. & Kit

PE will be held on Thursday with Mr Tanner and our other session will be held on Wednesday. This term will focus on basketball/netball. Children need to wear navy shorts and a pale blue polo shirt or tracksuit bottoms and tops in colder weather. They also need to wear trainers. **PE kits should be worn to school on the days that PE is timetabled.** All kit should be clearly named please. Please note, no jewellery may be worn during P.E. sessions and long hair needs to be tied back.

Homework

As outlined in our school newsletter on 9th September by Miss Edgington, we will no longer be setting a weekly formal homework, previously these have been in the form of weekly spelling tests. Instead, it is more useful for the children to be using their curriculum spellings in context by reading them and learning spelling rules.

Kingfishers objective for homework this year is to read. This can be between 10-20 minutes daily. If time allows a quick note in the children's reading record will help me to keep track of their engagement at home and when they need to take an AR quiz. The children have a basket that they can pop their reading record into each morning so I can check it.

Thank you for the support you have already shown with regards to commenting in your child's reading record. It is invaluable to know that your child is receiving support from home in reading and your comments help to build a picture of your child's reading level and engagement.

If your child would like to practice spellings at home or you would like them to, they have the following resources now available to them (see below). This will not be set as formal homework, but it is personal choice

for you to access at home if you so wish. I will be showing the children how to use these resources in class, and I will send them home with their personal logins in due course.

- Spelling Frame - A good spelling resource which focuses on the spelling rules per year group. It allows them to look at example words for a spelling rule and play games to learn the rules.
- Spelling Shed - Another excellent resource for learning spelling rules per year group and revising previous years too.
- Times Tables Rock Stars – Year 2 and 4 Important for times tables practicing and particularly good for rapid recall.

Breakfast/ After School Club

We offer breakfast club every day from 8am and early birds can arrive from 8.30am. Afterschool Club runs every day between Monday and Thursday (3.20 – 5.30pm). Please contact the school office should you wish to book a session/s.

Collective Worship

We hold Collective Worship every day and use this time to explore our school values. On Friday, we have an assembly focusing on celebrating achievements and children are welcome to bring in awards they have gained outside school to share with everyone. Please also email the office and let us know if your child has demonstrated the current school value at home and we will celebrate this too.

Information

A link to our newsletters is sent home by email and this contains important, up to date information and upcoming dates and events as well as photos and a short description of what the children have been learning that week. **Please make sure you check it weekly.** If you need to contact a teacher directly, please email the admin address admindiptford@thelink.academy and your message will be forwarded to the relevant teacher.

I hope that this letter provides all the information you need, however please do ask if you have any questions.