



Ruby Class Newsletter
Thorpe Church of England Primary School
Faith, Love and Excellence

Autumn Term

September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers of Ruby Class,

Welcome back to another school year; we hope you have all had a fabulous summer. It was lovely to see all the smiling children return to school and we have spent the last few days getting to know each other and settling into life in Year Two! We are all looking forward to a very busy and exciting Autumn term. Please arrive promptly between 8.35-8.45 every morning to ensure your child is ready for learning.

Key dates:

Friday 15th Sept: Judo taster session. Please can the children come into school in their PE kit.

Friday 6th October: Harvest Service at St Mary's at 9:15. Parents welcome.

Tuesday 17th October: Parents' Evening - 3.15-6.00 pm.

Thursday 19th October: Parents' Evening - 4.30-7.00 pm.

OUR LEARNING

Our topic this half term is '*Marvelous Me*'.

Our focus in **English** this half term will be focusing on:

- Writing a story with recurring literary language called *Monkey See, Monkey Do* and adapting this to write their own stories.
- Writing explanation texts linked to *The Spider Life Cycle* and *The Butterfly Life Cycle*.

We will also continue our daily phonics work, paired reading and work on comprehension exercises.

In **Maths** we will be working through our Mastering Number program daily to help secure arithmetic skills.

We will also be working on:

- Number and Place Value with numbers up to 100.
- Bonds to 10 and then 20
- Adding and subtracting ones and across a ten.

Science: What do animals need to survive and grow healthily? We will be exploring what animals (including humans) need to survive and grow healthily. We will explore the basic needs of animals, growth and life cycles, healthy eating and exercise.

RE: What is God like for Christians? We will be exploring how most Christians see and experience God as a guide and a shepherd. We will consider how friends and followers of God speak about God with a focus on the parable of 'The Lost Sheep'.

Geography: What is the area around our school like? We will learning about Thorpe and use maps to explore physical and human features. We will learn about how the local land is used and then compare Thorpe's geographical features to London.

D&T: How can fabric be joined securely? We will be investigating different puppets and explore features and explore how they are made and how they move. We will be designing, making and evaluating finger puppets and sock puppets using different joining techniques.

PE: Real PE and Real Gym: Children will focus on co-ordination and balance during our PE lessons this half-term.

Music: Playing together: We will explore the pulse and rhythm of different songs and explore how musicians play together as a band. We will learn to sing different songs, including songs for Harvest.

French: Children will be introduced to greetings, numbers, colours and classroom instructions.

Home Learning:

Home learning is a very important part of school life and the children will continue to need **your** support to complete their tasks. Home learning will include reading, spellings, maths games and topic-based work.

How can you help your child in their learning?

As you know, your involvement in your child's learning is very important to enable them to achieve their full potential.

Most importantly **READ, READ, READ!** Reading to and with your child every evening for at least 10 minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford University Press highlighted the importance of parents reading with their children. *'Children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age'.*

The report also offers six tips for reading with your child at home, including

1. Make time to read - even ten minutes a day
2. Choose different types of books - fiction, non-fiction and poetry
3. Take turns to reads
4. Talk about the book and what is happening, asking your child questions (please see bookmark attached to the back of your child's homeschool link book)
5. Pay attention to the language - discuss the meaning of unfamiliar words, think of alternative words or opposite words
6. Enjoy reading and be good reading role models

In addition, focus on reading the CEW with speed and fluency. If your child is finding a word tricky then practise sounding it out and blending together. Once a child has finished the book, discuss the comprehension questions that can be found in the back of the reading book.

Please **sign and/or write a comment** in your child's home school link book when you have read with your child. It's important that they read their school reading book but it would be great if they could read other books and texts too i.e., research on the internet or follow a recipe or instructions for a game. Please make sure that reading books and home school link books are in school **every day**. They will be changed on a Friday.

Spellings/Phonics - In the next few weeks on a **Tuesday**, we will send home a word list of focus sounds and spelling examples for the week. This will be in a spelling book which needs to be returned every **Monday** so new words can be stuck in. It would be good to discuss the words in the book with your child, getting them to sound out and blend them. You can think of and/or write other word examples for each grapheme and encourage your child to write one or two sentences with some of the focus words.

In addition, your child will come home with 'I can blend' words each **Tuesday** linked to the phonics learning in class. Please help your child to sound and blend these words.

It would also be beneficial to help your child read and spell the **Year 1 & 2 Common Exception words**. Maybe you could ask your child to say and/or write **one sentence a day** with a Year 1 or 2 word in.

Maths. A dig1t game will be sent home fortnightly to play at home. We also recommend the White Rose 1 Minute Maths app which can be downloaded for free on the Amazon, Google Play or Apple App Store.

Home Learning Activities – A separate grid will be sent home containing **six** activities linked to our class work. Please complete at least one activity of your child's choice from the grid for this half term (they can of course complete more than one if they wish). Home Learning can be brought in at any time and we will celebrate it in class at the earliest opportunity.

Library – The children will have the opportunity to choose a library book every Friday.

Thank you for your all your help with your child's learning. It's very much appreciated!

PE – Our **PE** lessons will continue to be on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** this half term. Please ensure that your child wears their **correct school uniform** PE Kit in school: Yellow T-shirts, Royal Blue or Navy Tracksuit Trousers (no logos), Navy shorts, Trainers or Black Plimsoll shoes). Please ensure long hair is tied back and no earrings are worn on PE days.

Marvellous Me – _In Ruby Class we have a 'Marvellous Me' bag. Each week a child will be selected to fill the bag with an item that is special to them. The item should have a story behind it so it can be shared with the rest of the class.

The aim of the 'Marvellous Me' bag is to encourage children to think about who or what is special to them. It also aims to encourage children to talk about what makes them marvellous! It is also a valuable speaking and listening activity.

Design and Technology – _This half term we will be making sock puppets. Please can your child bring in an old sock for this project.

Please ensure that the children have these items at school with them every day and they are **named** clearly:

- A bottle of water
- A healthy snack – fresh fruit or vegetables are best
- Their reading book and home school link book.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to arrange a time to come and see us. You can also e mail us at rubyclass@thorpe.surrey.sch.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

We look forward to working with you all to help your child reach their full potential.

Mrs George and Mrs Graham