

LEA AND GARSDON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



The Street
Lea
MALMESBURY
Wiltshire
SN16 9PG

Telephone: 01666 823534
e-mail: admin@leagarsdon.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher : Mr Peter Shewring

January 2022

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that you've all had a wonderful Christmas break.

This term in Beech Class, our topic is based around the very thought-provoking book, *The Last Bear*, written by Hannah Gold. The key themes of this book centre on environmental issues and the effects of global warming. Whilst reading about an incredible friendship, we'll learn all about the many steps we can all take to help protect our planet.

To help us learn more about environmental issues, on March 24th we'll visit Westonbirt Arboretum to carry out a 'Forests For The Future' workshop - more information on this to follow.

Take a look at the Topic Web which gives more detail about everything Beech Class will be learning this term.

And so on to class admin ...

New spellings will continue to be set on Monday. Children copy their new words into their spelling books then take their spelling books home so they can learn them ready for a test on Friday. The spellings set may be words taken from the Common Exception Word lists or they may practise a certain spelling rule.

If your child's spelling book gets mislaid or damaged, please let me know and we'll replace it.

Please continue to encourage your child to read regularly at home. We're very grateful to the PTA for funding the purchase of some great new reading books including a set of National Geographic readers which is currently on order. Hopefully, these high interest, non-fiction reading books will inspire and motivate the children in Beech Class to read even more.

On Mondays and Thursdays, children are asked to hand in their reading books and reading records so we can provide new books. Not everyone remembers to do this and if you notice that your child's books need to be changed, please let us know.

During week 2, I'll send out the first homework tasks. This term, instead of the pick and mix sheet of topic related tasks, homework will be linked to the grammar and punctuation elements of the English curriculum. In addition, Maths homework will be sent home on a Wednesday. Homework should be handed in every Monday.

By using Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) on a daily basis last term, we've started to see a real improvement in children's times table knowledge. We'll continue this daily practice throughout the Spring Term. Every Friday, I'm able to collate the children's results to give them a weekly 'rock speed'; the time it took in seconds for them to correctly answer a times table question that week. It's lovely to see so many children working hard to beat their rock speed from the previous week!

An ability to quickly recall times table facts is key to enabling children make good progress in so many areas of Maths and any additional times table practice you can carry out at home will be very beneficial. This improvement in times table fluency will also be put to the test in June when Year 4 children will complete a new statutory online times table check.

Finally, PE will take place on Monday and Wednesday. Please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit on these days.

As always, please get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.

Best wishes,

Ms Humphries