



Elm C of E Primary School
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Headteacher – Mr A. C. Howe B.Ed Hons M.Ed

Wisbech Schools'



Tuesday 1st November, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!!

Remembrance Week

Poppies and related items will go on sale in school from Monday 7th November, leading up to Remembrance Day on 11th November. The vicar is coming to take assembly with a remembrance theme on Tuesday next week and we will be taking some time during the week to consider the service to our nation given by our armed forces. If you or your child wish to buy one of the items they should bring in the right amount of money, preferably in an envelope, as listed below. Do not send money to the office – older pupils will go from class to class with the items for sale. All proceeds go to the British Legion who support service men and their families.

- Poppies: your donation is up to you.
- Friendship bracelet: £1
- Slap rulers: £1
- Wristbands: £0.50
- Reflectors: £0.50
- LED torch £1

Homework Policy

Many thanks to parents who responded to our survey about homework. We had 55 responses, which is quite a high proportion of parents. Broadly speaking the results were:

- YES – in favour of the sort of homework programme we are following this term – 33
- Unsure – in favour of a minimal amount of homework only – 8
- NO – generally against homework as proposed – 13

We have discussed the results and revised the school policy, which remains more or less the same as I described earlier in the term:

Reception	Reading at home nightly. Words/Games.
Year 1	Reading at home nightly. Spellings/writing activity related to Read Write Inc. Adding and subtracting mentally, 1 to twenty.
Year 2	Reading at home nightly Spellings/writing activity. Adding and subtracting mentally to 100 and multiplication tables (2s, 5s and 10s).
Years 3 and 4	Reading at home nightly. Weekly written comprehension exercise. 10 spellings. Multiplication tables to 12 x 12.
Years 5 and 6	Reading at home nightly. Weekly written comprehension exercise. 10 spellings. Multiplication tables to 12 x 12.

In addition every time there is a change of topic we will ask children to undertake one piece of related research or project work. This may be done over several weeks as topics usually take at least a half term.

The class teacher will be responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for pupils and parents/carers on a day to day basis. The class teacher will ensure that the instructions for each task set are clear. The class teacher will ensure that the homework set is appropriate to the needs of their particular class.

In addition the school will provide a weekly Homework Club where children who have difficulty managing homework at home may work under supervision on homework tasks. There is also a lunchtime Maths Club and an ICT Club where homework activities may be undertaken.

We also provide the following facilities for home study:

- Abacus on-line – each child has a log in for this opportunity to play maths games, etc.
- Tackling Tables: the school will obtain games to help children to reinforce their grasp of number facts – these may be purchased through the school office.
- Lexia: some children will be able to access this reading intervention on-line at home, by invitation.

This policy will also be posted on the school website shortly.

Maths café

Following the success of our Reading Café, we are trying something similar for maths on Friday 11th November. Parents are invited into class as follows to work with their children on a variety of exciting and practical maths activities:

- 9 – 9.45 a.m. Years 6, 1 and 2
- 9.45 – 10.30 a.m. Years 4 and 5
- 10.45 – 11.30 a.m. Reception and Year 3

On this occasion we will serve tea and cake in the hall but this will be an opportunity to look at resources, find out about what we are doing in maths, meet the Tackling Tables people, etc.

Children will stay in class. You will also be free to visit other classes where the maths activities are happening. Resources for use at home will be on sale, including Tackling Tables materials.

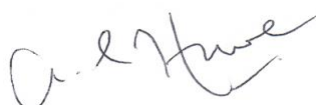
Dinner Money

Office staff kindly request that you pay for dinner money at the start of each week to make their enormous workload a little more manageable. Thank you.

Dates for the diary

- Children in Need Day – Friday 18th November.
- Christmas Tree service – Friday 2nd December 2016 at 2 p.m.
- 7th and 8th December – parent consultation days.
- Tuesday 13th December at 10 a.m. – Christmas service at All Saints Church.
- Wednesday 14th December – Christmas Fair from 3.30 p.m.
- Thursday 15th December – Christmas Lunch.
- Nativity performances from Years R, 1 and 2 will be on Thursday 15th December and Friday 16th December at 2 p.m.
- The Christmas holiday starts on Wednesday 21st December. We have a staff training day on Wednesday 4th January 2017, so children come back to school on Thursday 5th January 2017.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher