



18th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the new school year. We hope that you have all had a lovely, restful summer holiday and managed to have some quality time together as a family. We would like to start off by saying how proud we are of all the children. They have taken the 'new normal' in their stride and have adapted well to the new routines. We are writing to share with you an overview of the topics that your child will be learning in the first half of the Autumn term in Years 3 and 4. At Castle Park, we value the important partnership between home and school, therefore please use the information below to support your child with their learning over the coming weeks. We will be spending the first couple of weeks getting to know each individual child and planning a curriculum to meet their needs. Therefore, as you will appreciate, this is only a guide of what we might be covering in the first half term.

The areas of the curriculum where we would like to work together are in the development of your child's reading and maths skills. Early in the term, your child will be provided with a plastic folder containing a reading record and a reading book. The reading record is provided so you or your child can make regular comments about the reading that your child does with you at home. **Please ensure that the reading record is in school each day.** It will be collected in by your child's English teacher once a week so that they can reward the effort that is being made at home to develop this essential skill. We will ensure that all reading books are quarantined for 72 hours before being put back into the class reading area. We will also be sending home personalised mathematics 'Learn Its'. These are small cards with number facts that are appropriate to your child's stage of development. Please work regularly with your child to help them instantly recall them and the related number fact (e.g. $3 \times 5 = 15$ so $15 \div 5 = 3$).

An exciting part of the year 3 and 4 curriculum is going swimming at the Leisure Centre. Swimming this year will **hopefully** take place in the Spring and Summer terms. A further letter will come home towards the end of the Autumn term explaining the swimming procedures in more detail. As swimming is not happening during the Autumn term, two PE sessions will take place each week. Miss Shaw's and Mr Tennant's PE lessons will be on a Wednesday and Thursday and Ms. Thwaites/Mrs Brooks' class will have their PE lessons on a Tuesday and Thursday. Pupils should have a full indoor and outdoor PE kit in school all week just in case the timetable is adjusted due to poor weather. Please see the school website for further details of suitable PE kit. Your child will bring their PE kit home at the end of each half term, unless it needs washing before then if it has been very muddy!

ClassDojo has now been set up for your child in their new class. This will be used as a communication system between home and your child's new class teacher. You will be able to use the same login details as previously and if you have not received these, please ask your child's class teacher and they will be pleased to help.

As in previous years, children are encouraged to complete a piece of homework each week - the Friday Challenge. At the start of each half term, children will be issued with a list of homework activities to choose from. There will be more tasks than there are weeks in the term, allowing your child to have some choice in the tasks that they complete. Children should bring their completed task to their teacher by the Tuesday of each week. This will then be marked on Friday ready for your child to bring home for the weekend. If your child would like to complete one of the more creative tasks, then please send a picture on ClassDojo rather than bringing in the creation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to any member of the team.

Yours sincerely,

Leanne Shaw, Adam Tennant, Helen Thwaites and Sam Brooks.

LKS2 class teachers



Curriculum area.	Topics, ideas and skills for development this half term.	Homework ideas linked to the curriculum areas.
English 	Adventure stories Syllabic poems	Read a range of stories with your parents that have similar settings. Read a book and then watch the film version. Talk about the similarities and differences.
Mathematics 	Place value Addition and subtraction	Practice your 'Learn Its' each day at home. Visit http://www.mathplayground.com/games.html to access a range of educational games relating to our maths topics.
Science 	Plants	Visit https://www.bbc.com/education/topics/zpxnyrd to watch video clips and complete activities all relating to plants.
Geography 	Madagascar	Look on a map of the world and see which countries we might study during our Africa Themed Week. Find out about the animals that inhabit Madagascar.
Art and Design 	Textiles - Batik t-shirts	Have a go at your own glue batik. Go to https://artfulparent.com/how-to-do-glue-batik-with-kids/ for a useful guide.
PE 	Lacrosse Dance	Please ensure PE kits are in school every day. Don't know what lacrosse is? Visit https://www.englishlacrosse.co.uk/ to watch videos and find out how to play the game.
Music 	Let your spirit fly	Listen to some of your favourite songs together. Would your children like to learn to play a musical instrument?
RE 	Global Christianity	Find out about Christians who live in another country.
IT and Computing 	Search engines and basic skills.	Help your children with the basic skills that will really help them at school. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word processing and saving and printing work • Using search engines