

12th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Updated on the 29th of September

It has been fantastic getting to know your children in the first week and I am looking forward to what I'm sure is going to be a hugely successful and enjoyable year. We are first to be in our school's beautiful new classroom and we are in the process of making it our own. The children have already started with their work. We have been learning about place value in maths and have started to read our epic class text *Goodnight Mr Tom*. We have also learned about World War I and its aftermath in preparation to better understand our History topic, World War II.

The start of a new school year is always busy, so please can I make you aware of the following:

- ◆ We will encourage the children to be as independent as possible this year, especially when it comes to revision for the SATS later in the year. However sometimes help from at home (and school) will be required.
- ◆ Just like last year, the children will be expected to complete homework. This year, we have decided as a school that DoodleMaths will be our homework of choice with all children focusing on their personal maths targets set via the platform. In conjunction with this, children will also receive spellings and will be required to read.
- ◆ Ideally, we would like children to spend at least 40 minutes on DoodleMaths over the course of the week. Progress will be checked on Fridays. All children have their DoodleMaths passwords and Logins will be stuck into their Reading Journals.
- ◆ The children will receive roughly 6 spellings a week taken from either their personal spellings or the year 5 and 6 statutory words list. These will be tested each Thursday.
- ◆ Please can children be heard to read at least 3 times a week and independently as often as possible. This year, children will have their own *Reading Journal* to document what they are reading similar to a scrapbook and be asked to talk once a week in class about what they have been reading. This is to encourage a reading for pleasure and more information should have already been sent to you regarding this. Reading logs should be filled in and brought to school, however due to them also having a reading journal, comments are no longer necessary.
- ◆ P.E. is on a **Friday afternoon** this year. Please could children wear the correct kit (Longvernal P.E. t-Shirt, black shorts or sports trousers and daps or trainers) to school on a Friday. We will be swimming for PE from now up until Christmas, so swimming costumes should be brought until then.
- ◆ Forest School is on a **Monday afternoon**. Forest School lessons will take place regardless of the weather (unless extreme) so please can you ensure your child is wearing the appropriate items of clothing; long sleeve tops and trousers on Thursdays. Could children please bring their wellies and waterproofs in a separate bag to change into and out of during the day. Please note that it is extremely difficult to provide spare Forest Kits for individual children.
- ◆ Finally, I'm sure that there will be a lot of questions regarding SATS and transition to secondary school, however we will discuss these in more depth later in the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me either via email or speak to me before or after school. I will generally check my email between 8 and 4 each day and get back to you as soon as I can, but if in case of an emergency, please contact the office. I'm really looking forward to working with you and your children in this, their final year at Longvernal!

Kind regards,

Tim Dobson