

Dear Parents/Carers,

Cherry Class have had a lovely start to the year, and it has been great seeing all the children reconnecting with their friends and sharing all the exciting things they got up to over the summer holidays. We have already started learning lots of new and exciting topics, The Ancient Greeks, place value and electricity to name but a few.

As your child is now in Year 4, I like to encourage them to be as independent as possible, however on occasion, help from home (and school) will be needed. Due to it being the beginning of the academic year, I thought it would be helpful for you to be aware of the following:

This year we will continue to complete homework online, Doodle Maths still being our homework of choice, (www.doodlelearning.com). Ideally, I would like children to spend at least 10 minutes per week on Doodle Maths, however, this can be completed in a day or over the course of the week. The platform will set personal maths targets for your child to work towards throughout the year.

Furthermore, each week your child will be sent home with a personal spelling list (no more than 6 words) that they will need to practice at home in readiness for their weekly spelling test. Spelling tests will be carried out on a Friday.

I also expect your child to read at home, AT LEAST 3 times a week, with at least one of those times being them reading to an adult. This year, there has been a slight change to how we will check whether your child is reading. Your child will come home with a Reading Record, however, unlike in previous years, they will just be expected to write what they have read. If you are to read with your child, please write this in there too. Furthermore, there will also be a Reading Journal, where we will be expecting your child to complete at least one task per week based on the book they are reading or have just read. In addition to this, we will all engage in Book Talk, a time to discuss the book your child is reading etc. from these discussions we will be able to gauge whether your child is reading at home.

This year your child will sit their Multiplication Check in June 2023 and it is of the utmost importance that your child practices their timetables as much as possible when at home. We will practise in school daily, however, your support with this would be greatly appreciated. Your child will have a Times Table Rockstars login, which I would like every child to use at home, for at least 10 minutes per week. More information on the Multiplication Check will be given to you nearer the time. (www.ttrockstars.com)

P.E. will be on a Thursday this year. Please could children come into school wearing the correct kit (Longvernal P.E. t-shirt, black shorts or sports trousers and trainers). PE will be outside for the first term, so black Longvernal fleeces or green Longvernal jumpers can also be worn.

Forest school will be on a Wednesday. Forest school will take place regardless of the weather (unless extreme) so please can you ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing (long sleeve tops and trousers) as well as bringing their wellies and waterproofs in a separate labelled bag to change in and out of, if necessary – I am happy for those to be kept in school, on your child's peg.

Please could you email me or the office an up to date 'approved pick up list' for your child, so we are able to update your child's records. This should include anyone who may be likely to pick your child up at the end of the day. You can share a password with me/the office if you require. For safety reasons, I will not let your child go home with anyone who is not on the list or has not been discussed with either myself or the office prior to pick-up regardless of whether your child knows the person or not. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me before or after school with any questions or queries. Please continue to check the Longvernal school website for updates on Cherry Class. Mrs. Brayton and I are looking forward to a fantastic year in Cherry Class.

Kind regards,

Jess Collins