

Y2 Class Information Autumn Term 2023 Mrs Steenkamp

Welcome back to a new term and a new school year! I hope you had an enjoyable and restful summer holiday. After just a few days, it feels like we have always been together and the children have settled in very well - I am really enjoying getting to know your children – they certainly are a lovely bunch!



I have tried to pre-empt any questions you may have in the information outlined below, but as always, if there is anything I've missed, or if you would like to talk to me about something specific, please email me on jsteenkamp@elton.cambs.sch.uk or feel free to 'grab' me outside at the end of the day.

The Big Question - Our 'Big Question' this term is **"Where is the past in the present?"** We will be endeavouring to explore 2 key concepts through this question. These are:

- Change
- Community

Curriculum - This term, our 'Big Questions' and theme is obviously history based. The strands of the National Curriculum that we will cover are as follows:

- *changes within living memory. Where appropriate, these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life*
- *significant historical events, people and places in their own locality*

The past is often a tricky concept for young children to grasp, so we will be trying to 'fire up' (excuse the pun!) their imaginations by looking at the story of the Great Fire of London. If you have any artefacts, skills or experiences that you feel would enhance our 'Big Question' then please get in touch; we'd love to hear from you!

Staffing – As well as myself, year 2 will be supported in the mornings by Miss Beverly Seymour, who is now a level 3 qualified TA – congratulations to Bev! Some of you will also know Bev from breakfast and after school club.

Visits – Year 1 and 2 will be having a joint visit this term with an exciting historical slant! Further details will be with you shortly.

PE – Our timetabled PE slot this half term is Thursday afternoon and will be taught by the wonderful Callum. Your children will need to come to school on a Thursday in their full PE kit. Children should also come to school in their PE kit on the days when they attend a sports club after school. Please remember that earrings should be removed or taped and long hair should be tied back, in accordance with the school uniform policy.

Homework – I will set weekly homework on your child's TEAMS account every Thursday. This will detail the mental maths and spelling tasks for the week. These tasks should be undertaken daily for 5 minutes per subject. It is likely that I will also set a task on **edshed** to support with learning the week's spellings so it would be very helpful if you could teach your child to memorise their login and password independently (if they don't already know it 😊) If you have any queries about how to approach a particular task, or accessing 'Edshed' please let me know and I will be happy to help. **This year, the children will complete a spelling test on their given spelling words every FRIDAY morning.** However, homework will not commence until Thursday 28th September, with the first spelling test on the following Friday.

IMPORTANT – in your child's book bag today, you will find a small brown envelope containing new logins for TEAMS and for TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS. Passwords for Purple Mash and Edshed remain the same but if you forget or lose them, please email me and I will send them to you.

Reading - All children will be reading on a daily basis in class in the form of a whole class reading session. We usually have a reading theme for the week and read a variety of texts based on this theme. Then we discuss and answer questions on the text focusing on a selection of VIPERS questions; Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explain, Retrieve and Sequence.

It is also vitally important that your child reads at home as part of their daily homework. Your child will (soon) **either** have a book in their book bag OR will be able to access a reading book online via 'Collin's Big Cat'. If you have any problems accessing the online books, please drop me an email and I will forward it to Mrs Yassini to sort out! 😊 As well as this, the children are encouraged to take home a 'reading for pleasure' book to share with you. I am also aware that some of the children read books from home. I am more than happy with this, so please don't feel the pressure to read school books if you have a suitable selection at home. The most important thing is that your child reads regularly and LOVES reading! Unlike previous years, your child will NOT have a reading record book. However, if you wish to share any news about your child's reading at home with me, Please email me! 😊

Many thanks for your support. I look forward to a busy and exciting term with your children. Please feel free to talk to me about how your child has settled any time after school when I see the class out at the end of the day.

Best Wishes,

Jo Steenkamp