

Year 2 Class Information Summer Term 2024 Mrs Steenkamp

Summer term? That must be a typo.....There's not much summer going on yet is there?! Fingers crossed it gets the memo soon!

The first 2 weeks back have flown by and the children have settled back in brilliantly. We started the term off with an art-day and created some garden themed collages inspired by the work of artist Guiseppe Arcimboldo. These should be adorning the hall display boards shortly! We really do have a lot to look forward to this term and it promises to be jam-packed with fun events and exciting learning opportunities, including our annual May Day dancing event! Come on sun... we need you!

As per usual, 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 "How can I ignite my spark?" with the main focus being 'Elton Experiments and Experiences'.

We will be exploring 2 key concepts through the big question and these are:

- Failure
- Innovation

Curriculum – We have plenty to look forward to in terms of the subjects that the children will be studying this term. We have already started a history unit on the Victorian heroine Grace Darling. The children have been comparing the life of Grace to that of their own – quite an eye opener for them! (After half term, our focus will be on geography, in particular 'Weather around the World'.) The children will be developing their DT skills by designing and making a kite as well as some tasty 'Seaside Snacks.' In Science, we will be learning about 'animals and their habitats' and 'plants', including investigating the best conditions for a plant to grow. 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 – I continue to teach the class for 5 days a week, apart from a Thursday afternoon when the children have PE with Callum. Bev Seymour supports the class for spelling, reading and maths on Monday-Wednesday and all morning Thursday and Friday.

Visits – trip and visit planning is in full swing! I am in the process of organising a visit from the RNLI to talk about water safety and a summer term trip linked to animals is also in the pipeline. More details will follow shortly.

PE – As I have already mentioned, our timetabled PE slot this half term continues to be on a Thursday afternoon and will be taught by the brilliant 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 continue to 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. This term, the children will continue to complete a spelling test on their given spelling words every FRIDAY morning. Every week I will also set an assignment on EdShed to support with the children’s spelling homework.

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 has access to a wide range of school books to take home and they should be changing their books on a regular basis. As well as this, the children can also 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 continued support – it really is much appreciated. I look forward to a busy and exciting summer term with your children!

Jo Steenkamp