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19th January, 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope the children and parents of Potter Class had a lovely Christmas and brilliant holiday. All your children have had a great first few weeks back and have started the term off with a bang!

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that PE will continue to be on a Tuesday afternoon and also take place on a Thursday afternoon. This means that PE kits need to be in school from Monday morning and they will be sent home on a Friday evening for washing over the weekend. It is important that all items of clothing, PE kit, coats and school uniform, are named to avoid any lost belongings, they can get muddled when the children are getting changed.

At break time, fruit is provided as a healthy snack. We also encourage the children to drink water during the day and cups are available for this. If your child would like to bring their own drink, please send water in a named drinks bottle.

All children will continue to bring home a reading book each night, however we will now be changing their books only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This allows them to read the book more confidently and means you and your child can focus on other elements such as expression and comprehension should you wish. Could you please remember to write any comments in each evening and to return them to school each morning. I appreciate any support you give in helping your child with their reading and keywords. It really does make a difference.

As well as this all children will come home with spellings to learn every Friday, I would be really grateful if you could practice these spellings at home with your children when you can. They will be tested on them the following Friday.

Year 2 will also continue to get 1 piece of homework with the spellings which I estimate to take roughly 20 minutes. This should be returned on or before the following Wednesday. Should they have any problems with the homework please come and see me or write a note in their reading diary and I can talk through what they need to do.

Every Friday afternoon I will hold a show and tell session. This will work on a rota system.

Friday 20th January: Bovisand
Friday 27th January: Mothcombe
Friday 3rd February: Wembury

The following week will be back to Bigbury and continue from here.

I will also continue to send Monty our class monkey home every Friday for the weekend, to be returned on the Monday. If your child has not yet had him, he will be coming to your house one Friday soon!

This term we are going to be learning lots of exciting new things!

In English, we will be focusing on the units of 'Diary writing/recount, Instruction, Poetry, Story writing and Recount of a trip. This will work alongside the children's daily phonic sessions, where they will focus on their blending and segmenting skills and Year 2 will look at punctuation and grammar. Cross- curricular links will also be made to IPC and Computing throughout the term.

In Maths, the children will begin the term by reinforcing their number and counting skills before we move on to other mathematical concepts such as addition and subtractions, data handling and introducing aspects of multiplication and division.

In IPC the children will be following a unit of work called Insects and Flowers which is a theme that focuses on looking at plants and insects in our local habitats and in other parts of the world. IPC will cover Science, Geography, Art and Music.

In Science we will be looking at:

- What is an insect? Where do they live?
- Ants
- Plants – How do they grow? What conditions? What do they need? What are the parts of a plant called?
- Habitats
- Life Cycle of a butterfly
- Bees

All of the work we are going to do has been specially written to help your child reach the learning goals. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. I will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and asking children to explain their work. Perhaps they could share it with you too!

If you have anything to share with the class or comments about the topic and its contents please do get in touch, it would be great to share personal experiences or items with the children.

If for any reason you have any worries or concerns, please feel free to come and see me I am more than happy to talk through any thoughts that you have.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours Faithfully,

Miss Laura Hensman