



PHOENIX TRIBE'
CLASS INFORMATION LETTER

Autumn Term September 2009

Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back to our first term of the new academic Year. We hope that you all had an enjoyable summer holiday and that you are now rested and ready for the new term ahead.

We have high expectations of all the children in terms of behaviour and attitude, but we particularly expect our oldest pupils to set a good example for the younger children, in the classroom, on the playground and in the dining hall. All the children in Year 5 will continue to be involved in various daily duties at some point during the term. We expect these responsibilities to be taken seriously and that the children carry them out efficiently.

This year the class will be taught by Mrs Collins for four days per week and by Mr Perkins, usually on Thursdays.

We are continuing to think about our teaching in terms of the 6 areas of learning, (which still includes all National Curriculum Subjects) under these headings:

- * Communication, Language and Literacy
- * Mathematical Development
- * Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- * Physical Development
- * Creative Development
- * Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Development

Thinking and planning in this way will allow us to develop a more thematic approach to topic work, linking areas together to make topics more stimulating and providing more opportunities for creativity. Our first theme this year will be High Seas Adventure.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE & LITERACY

This term we will be focussing on 'Dodo's Are Forever' by Dick King Smith and other stories about pirates and the high seas. We will cover various styles of writing including diaries, non fiction information writing and work on settings. The children will learn in a variety of ways, including role play activities and there will be a particular focus on listening and speaking.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to cover all areas of mathematical learning - counting, calculating, handling data, measures and shape. The children will be encouraged to try different strategies and to verbalise their methods and reasoning and a focus will be on co ordinates and directional work to link in with our pirate theme.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Geography will also be linked to our pirate theme as we look at islands and some extremes of weather. In Science we will be investigating materials and looking at floating and sinking.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Our High Seas Adventure theme offers a lot of scope for art and design and technology. We will be experimenting with various media as well as making boats, flags, cutlasses and treasure boxes. Any cardboard tubes, yoghurt drinks bottles, newspapers and cardboard shoeboxes would be appreciated!

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

This term we will be concentrating on invasion games as well as swimming and dance.

P.E Kit should be kept in school all the time in a named bag.

It may be taken home at weekends to be washed.

It is a statutory requirement for all children to wear P.E. kit.

A change of clothes is necessary.

Kit required: Black shorts and white T-shirts, plimsolls or trainers for outdoors, plimsolls or bare feet for indoor work.

All items should be named please.

Earrings or studs should not be worn on PE days or taped over with sticking plasters.

If your child has long hair parents must provide them with a method of tying it up for PE.

We normally do PE on Thursday and alternate Mondays when we are not swimming.

Swimming dates for next term.

7th and 21st September

5th and 26th October

9th and 23rd November

7th December

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This term we will continue to focus on working together as a team, rights and responsibilities and changes that children might face as they get older. Our class based assemblies reinforce ideas discussed and all children are encouraged to put forward their viewpoints and ideas.

LEARNING SUPPORT IN THE CLASSROOM

Teaching Assistants for the Phoenix tribe are Liz Martin, Trish Tyrer and Elaine Barnes

Mrs Barnes, Mrs Tyrer and Mrs Martin will support all children in a number of ways. This will involve working with specific groups of children on identified skills or supporting the class while the teacher works with a specific group. The children will also benefit from support in ICT. Mrs Martin, Mrs Tyrer and Mrs Barnes will be involved in planning some activities and will input into Individual Education Plans. They will also be supporting groups of identified children with writing, in order to develop their skills and confidence.

HOMEWORK

Every child has a blue home school diary in which they record the books they have read and which can be signed when an adult hears them read. Maths homework is given weekly (usually on a Tuesday) and spellings are sent home on a Monday to be learnt for the following week. There may sometimes be additional tasks where the children are asked to find some information in order to prepare for a forthcoming lesson.

Please support your child in completing work sent home. In the classroom there is a handing in tray for work and there are also spare copies of the week's homework sheets.

(Just in case it gets lost, eaten by dog etc!)

CLASS REWARD SYSTEM

In addition to the school House Point system and Honours Book each class has a reward system which recognises **good effort, high standards and achievement**, and **good behaviour and attitude**.

In the Phoenix Tribe we have the MERIT system.

Children can win merits in any of the three areas.

The children record their merits in a special folder.

Awards can be won in any of the three areas.

5 MERITS = Bronze award

10 MERITS = Silver award

15 MERITS = Gold award

20 MERITS = Platinum award

25 MERITS = Diamond award

30 MERITS = Kryptonite award

All awards are presented in a whole school assembly on Fridays.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD

- * Try to ensure any homework is completed and handed in.
- * Help them to learn spellings and tables. Make it fun!
- * Read to them, listen to them read and talk about what they've read.
- * Ask questions about the story, the text or individual words and phrases to check understanding.
- * Encourage them and praise their achievements however small.
- * Spend time talking about school and listening to what they have to say.
- * Visit places of interest
(The museum in Queens Park in Loughborough is free!)
- * Encourage them to get involved in different activities and hobbies.
(Cubs, Brownies, fishing, clubs, swimming, rugby etc)
- * Keep TV and computer time to a sensible limit.
- * Discuss world and local news.
- * **Ensure your child gets enough sleep and eats a balanced diet.**

Extra Curricular Activities

We have some extra activities happening this term. KS2 children will be going to Cefn Lea 5th - 9th October and there will be an overnight stay at Beaumanor for our year 2 and year 3 children. Some of our year 4 and 5 children will have the chance to take part in a Tag Rugby competition on September 25th. Choir will be continuing as last year on Fridays. More information about all of these events will be sent out separately. In addition to this there is an after school Fit Kids Club from 3.30 to 5.00 on Monday to Thursday.

HELPING IN SCHOOL

If there are parents who wish to help in school, please come and see me or send a note to let me know when you are available and what you would like to do.

We will certainly need help with transport on local visits, as the cost of coaches now makes such trips very expensive, and we feel that our children should have these experiences free of charge. You don't need special skills to help out and your support will be appreciated.

I hope you find this information useful and informative.
We are looking forward to another successful term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Class Teachers