

Autumn Term in the Balloon Room



September 2018

Dear Parents.

Welcome back. I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and you had lots of fun together.

Classroom Organisation.

I will be teaching all numeracy, sports and some science; whilst Rebecca will teach literacy, as well as geography, PSHE and history.

All children new to the class will be working as Lower Balloons, whilst all the children who were with me last year, will be Upper Balloons.

PE

The Balloons will follow an active sporting curriculum

Monday: PE at Golden Lane (9.00-10.30 am)

Tuesday: Swimming at Golden Lane 9.00am-10.30 am)

Wednesday: Sports at Coram's Fields (1.30-3.40 pm)

Friday: Tennis at Golden Lane (9.00-10.30 am)

Please note that swimming lessons are part of the curriculum, therefore if you consider your child to be well enough to attend school, they are well enough to swim.

If children are not suitably attired on any day of a sporting activity, they will not be allowed to participate. It is essential the children are equipped with their own tennis racquet- they will not be allowed to play without one.

Reading

We place great emphasis on reading and value our library enormously. The children are issued with their own "reading passport" for the year's reading ahead and contain different story genres. Children will be expected to work their way through these throughout the year and complete the passport by next July. Lower Balloons are issued with a "bronze passport" and Upper Balloons will be given a "silver passport". We expect the children to aim to read a book in a week, unless an extension has been agreed. The children are aware that their reading diary must be updated daily, which will allow them to record all the books they have completed from our library and the pages they are reading daily. This will be checked every half term by Rebecca, with a view to monitoring reading progress. Please ensure the diaries are kept in the homework folder, as occasional messages from me may be sent home.

Spelling

The children will be issued with a list of the term's spellings, which will help them with their weekly test on Fridays, but thereafter, should a replacement be required, it can be found on our school website. The words chosen will be a combination of those encountered in the spelling book and high frequency words or words that are usually misspelt.

Humanities and Science

Geography: Earthquakes and Volcanoes. The children will be learning about the Earth's crust, tectonic plates, how volcanoes are formed, their location, be they extinct, dormant or active. The children will also gain a greater understanding of how and why earthquakes occur.

History: World War Two. We will be exploring; the causes, the Battle of Britain, the Blitz, evacuation, rationing and D-Day. To enhance our understanding of this topic we will be visiting The Imperial War Museum, you will be notified once a date has been confirmed.

Science: A: Living things and habitats. The children will be focusing on the growth of living things and how they interact with their environment. B: Electrical circuits. The class will have great fun exploring the workings of electrical circuits, using buzzers, bulbs and motors.

I look forward to helping your children do great things this year. Please remember that I am always available to discuss any aspect of your child's development.

Best Wishes

Robert