



# Apollo



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope you all had a relaxing break and we look forward to seeing you at various events throughout the year. Apollo class will be taught by two class teachers throughout the week: Mrs Small will be in on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, with Mrs Burniston teaching the class on Wednesday and Thursday.

Targeted teaching will take place on a Wednesday morning, where all pupils will be split into smaller focus groups for Maths and English.

We are also very lucky to have Mr. Mills Jr. helping in Apollo every morning, which will offer great continuity from their time in year 4.

## Contacting Us

Please feel that you can come in to see us to discuss important matters by making an appointment with the school office or popping in after school. If you feel that your message is something that could be passed on via your child's Reading Record, please just remind your child to show us the note as soon as we are settled for register in the morning. 😊

## English

During the year your child will read a variety of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, linked to their IPC topic, and will investigate the features of each type to help them to be able to write independently in various styles. It is really important that your child continues to read widely throughout the year and your support at home is essential in this area - we know from research that children who experience this support make better than average progress. Please encourage your child to take pride in their homework; checking, editing and presentation are very important.

**Reading Record books:** Please record the reading your child does at home (book title, pages read and any relevant comments) in your child's Reading Record. Your child may be able to start commenting on books, sharing a certain part of their book, or other exciting bits they've read within the book. If this is the case, please just sign their book/comments before they hand it in on a Friday morning. This is a great way for children to share their wonderful book choices and also earn merits.

**Spelling:** In line with the 2014 curriculum and best practice, the teaching and learning of spelling at Whitehill focuses on rules, commonly misspelt words and developing an understanding of the roles of morphology (word meanings) and etymology (word roots). Although some words simply have to be learnt, teachers help pupils to understand relationships between meaning and spelling where these are relevant. Pupils are helped to spell words with prefixes and suffixes correctly through being taught some of the general principles for adding them.

Spelling lists (containing words related to the taught strategy and words from the 2014 National Curriculum statutory list) will run over two weeks. They might also include revision and topic words. Pupils will be tested on the words from this list and new words that follow the same rule. Pupils will have a **Spellosaurus** (buff exercise book) with suggested activities to complete to explore and embed strategies. Additionally, we will be introducing an online resource called **Spellodrome** (more details to follow).

### **Maths**

The most important thing that your child can learn is their times tables - to a point where they can be instantly recalled. As before, in years 3 and 4, children will continue to use **TT Rockstars** as a fantastic way of learning this quick recall. It is also crucial that children know their number operations well and are able to use basic written methods to solve problems. Any extra help at home to consolidate work in school is always greatly appreciated! This could be in the form of involving your child in 'real life' situations where basic skills can be practised. Ideas for this can be found in our free maths leaflets available at reception.

### **Science**

There will sometimes be research-based homework in Science. We will try our best to give them a book about the topic from school if they cannot access a computer. If at all possible, it would be great for you to read through and talk about the research together. We also have the Year 5 space-themed sleepover to look forward to which is scheduled for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### **Foundation Subjects**

These will be covered through topics throughout the year based on units from the International Primary Curriculum. Separate information will be sent giving an overview of the unit being studied, together with suggestions of how you can support your child. All units involve independent research, collaborative work and presentational skills – valuable skills that your child will continue to use in years to come.

## **French**

Mrs Skinner will teach French every week on a Friday morning. If your child speaks a second language or has experience of living in another country, please let us know as it would be a great opportunity to build cultural awareness in the classroom.

## **Wider opportunities in music**

Children in Year 5 are given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument under the tutelage of a professional music teacher. Mr Brunton will lead whole class sessions every Wednesday afternoon; all children will be able to learn either the flute or the clarinet and you may also apply to sign them up for private tuition through the school should this be appropriate.

## **R.E.**

In year 5, we continue to follow the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for R.E. We will focus on Judaism, Christianity and Humanism, exploring and discussing key beliefs, practices and celebrations.

## **Activity Afternoons**

Mrs Little, Mr Miley and other professional coaches teach the children various sports on a Friday afternoon. Children must have their PE kit in school at all times. Should your child be unable to participate due to injury, please ensure that a letter is sent in to school.

## **Homework**

Homework in year 5 is handed in every Friday morning, along with your child's Reading Record book, and includes:

- 3 spelling activities per week – at least one on Spellodrome (checked and returned each Friday)
- 3 Reading Record entries
- TT Rockstars (set weekly in class)
- Occasional Science or topic research-based tasks

## **Trips and Visits**

Trips and visits greatly enhance your child's learning and so we try to incorporate these into the curriculum. We do realise that trips can be expensive and so we aim to keep the cost as low as possible, whilst providing a learning experience of high quality. We plan to visit the National Space Centre in Leicester on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November and finish the week with our highly anticipated 'Space Sleepover' on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## **Help**

*If anyone would like to offer help in hearing children read, coming to talk to the children about a particular topic being taught, or if you have a particular expertise that you could share with the school, we would love to hear from you.*

*We look forward to working with you to support your child over the course of the year.*

*Best wishes,*

*Sarah Small and Heidi Burniston*