

Welcome to Aztec Class

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you all had a relaxing summer break and we look forward to seeing you at various school events during the coming year. We already have plans for some of these! Hopefully, you will find the information in this leaflet to be a useful reminder of our expectations for the year.

Homework

Your child will have a homework book. Each week they will have a number of tasks to complete, which should be completed in their homework book or on the computer/tablet. Their book needs to be handed in every Friday morning.

Spellings: New spellings will be sent out on a Friday, with children being tested on these words the following week. We ask that they practise their spellings in a variety of ways using their Spellosaurus book. The Spellosaurus booklet is attached into homework books and offers a wide variety of different spelling activities. Please encourage your child to pick activities that they enjoy. They can do the same activities each week, different or even come up with their own creative ways of learning their spellings.

Times Tables: They need to complete a minimum of 15 minutes of TT Rockstars each week. This is a magical programme and if they put the time into it, you will be impressed with how quickly they learn their times tables. We will set them the tables that they are working on each week.

If you feel that your child has worked really well, but still hasn't completed a task, we would appreciate you signing off their piece of work so that we know they have made a good attempt. You might also want to jot down any difficulties encountered. Some of the activities may not require any writing in the book, but we would love to see photographs, if possible. The homework book will be checked weekly, so your child will have plenty of time to complete the work set – but please do not leave it all until the last minute!

*Homework books will be sent home for the first time on Friday 23rd September. These will include log in details for the relevant online platforms.

Maths: Some children will receive a Maths homework sheet – they should spend no more than 20 minutes on this piece of work. Much of what will be included in this homework will relate to learning content that we have covered, although, occasionally, something new may be included that is coming up in class, as a way of seeing what the children already know. We will go through the answers to these questions in class on a Friday afternoon.

*Please note that Maths homework will not be sent out until after October half term.

Lexia: Some children will be asked to complete a minimum of 20 minutes on our Lexia learning platform (please note that this task will be instead of the Maths homework). Lexia is a program that looks to develop early reading skills. More information will be made available in due course for those children who will be using the Lexia software in and out of school.

Reading Record Book

Please record the reading your child does at home (book title, pages read and any relevant comments) in your child's Reading Record book. We would expect children to have read their reading book out loud to an adult before it is changed. Please make sure they read a minimum of three times a week. This is a two-way document, so feel free to write comments /concerns. Please make sure that your child knows to show us any comments that you have written! You can, of course, write a letter if it is more appropriate, or call in to see us at the start or end of the day. The reading records will be checked every Monday.

House Points

At Whitehill, children are part of a house; either Fire, Water, Earth or Air. Throughout the year, they are able to earn house points for their house – these points are collated on a Friday in our Achiever's Assembly, where the house with the most points is awarded the house cup. House points can be awarded for excellent work, superb teamwork, impressive homework and generally good effort and choices made both in and out of the classroom. Children are also able to receive five house points if they earn a Headteacher's Award from Mr Mills.

Throughout the year, children will also be able to earn house points through various competitions, including rounders, football and Times Table Rock Stars.

Individually, children's house points count towards different milestones, starting at Bronze through to Platinum. Children each have their own house point book, where they will keep their house points in. Each milestone they receive will earn them a special certificate which they can take home.

A Little Reminder About Uniform

We are proud of our team image and instil in the children the importance of being smart. Please could you ensure that your child wears the correct uniform for school. **It is also vital that all items of uniform are clearly named**, so that any 'lost' items can be returned quickly.

Please make sure your child brings a water bottle and healthy snack with them for break time.

Games Afternoons & PE

Children are taught sports on Thursday afternoons to ensure the best teaching of a wide range of exciting activities. Your child will also have the opportunity to continue their swimming lessons. You will have a letter outlining the costs nearer the time. Please ensure that PE kit, including trainers are in each week and in a named bag.

Teachers

Although I (Mr Wells) am your child's class teacher, the class will also have lessons from other teachers. The children will have specialist French lessons from Mrs Skinner. On Friday mornings, the children may also be taught by Mrs Small or Mr Denney, as we split into smaller class sizes for Maths and Spellings/English skills.

Trips and Visitors

Trips and visits greatly enhance your child's learning and so we try to incorporate these throughout the curriculum. However, we do realise that trips can be expensive and so we aim to keep the cost as low as possible, whilst providing a high quality learning experience. We hope to go to Wymondley Wood and Shepreth Wildlife Park. You will be sent letters about any arrangements in due course. It is likely that these trips will require a voluntary contribution which will cover travel and expert instructors. Based on last year's costings, Wymondley Woods will be around £5.00 per child and Shepreth is looking at roughly £11 per child. Please note that these costings are subject to change.

We look forward to working with you to support your child during this year. Please feel free to pop in at the beginning or end of the day to discuss any worries or concerns – we are usually around school somewhere! You can, of course, always make an appointment if you prefer. We look forward to seeing you and working together during the year.

Mr Wells (Class Teacher) & Mrs Bradshaw (Classroom Teaching Assistant)

A flavour of what we will be learning about in Aztec Class. If you would like more information on the curriculum, please refer to the school website.

