

## Squirrel Class Newsletter September 2023



Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome to Year 3 Squirrel Class!

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer and we welcome the children back to school. This term we will be making sure that the children feel safe and secure in their new classroom as they transition from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2. The Squirrel Class Team are looking forward to an exciting year with lots of fun learning. We hope the children are excited too!

### What are we Learning?

The focus in our maths learning this half term is place value which will then develop onto addition and subtraction next half term. In English the children will explore poetry, an adventure story and a holiday brochure. We will also be exploring the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, investigating rocks, soils and fossils, learning French greetings and much more in our learning journey together.

### PE and Forest School

We have PE on Wednesdays and Thursdays, so please ask that the children come to school in their PE kit. For safety reasons, children with long hair need to have a hair band to tie it back. If children have earrings they need to be able to remove these themselves prior to the lesson or tape needs to be provided to cover the earrings during the lesson.

Forest School sessions will run every two weeks on a Tuesday afternoon starting on the 12th of September. Our other forest school sessions for this half term are on the 26th of September and the 10th of October. Please ensure children bring outdoor clothing into school, as these engaging outdoor learning sessions will become messy! We do also have additional outdoor sessions which can be on any day, so please ensure that your child has a separate outdoor clothing kit in school at all times for wet playtimes and outdoor learning. Their school wellington boots are stored on the rack outside the classroom.

As in previous years for outdoor activities the children need old trousers and/or waterproof trousers, wellington boots, warm long-sleeved top, raincoat/warm coat, gloves and hat for when it is cold. Please make sure that all items of clothing are named.

Please remember to send your child with a water bottle every day. We do encourage the children to keep hydrated and having their own water bottle makes this so much easier!

### Reading

To grow a love of reading the children will bring home a book of their choice to read either independently or with an adult. The children will also read a book every day in school. In the classroom, there is a variety of topic books related to the children's learning which the children will be able to access regularly. We will also have a class book that we shall read as a class each week. The children will have the opportunity to change their books on a Thursday.

### Maths

Every Monday the children will try the 1 minute Times Tables Mountain challenge to see if they can climb up to the next level. If possible please practice multiplication with your child, focusing on 10x, 5x, 2x. The children will also complete a Clic and Safes short test every Friday.

## Homework

Along with practising times tables and reading at home there may be some extra home tasks and activities for the children to try at home that will support the children to make the best progress possible.

## Staff

Miss Watson – Class Teacher (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

Miss Coetzee – Class Teacher (Wednesday)

Mrs Bonsall – Teaching Assistant (Monday to Friday)

Mrs Betts – 1:1 support (Monday to Wednesday)

Miss Read – 1:1 support (Thursday and Friday)

We are looking forward to welcoming the children and yourselves into Squirrel Class and working together this year. Please do get in contact with us if you have any questions. Our email addresses are:

[hwatson@greatbartonprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:hwatson@greatbartonprimaryschool.co.uk)

[bcoetzee@greatbartonprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:bcoetzee@greatbartonprimaryschool.co.uk)

Thank you for your patience at the end of the day. We will be getting to know parents and other key grown ups who are collecting. We obviously want to make sure we don't let the children out of our care until we are sure we have acknowledged/seen the right person and this can be quite challenging when it's busy!

Thank you for your continued support,

Squirrel Class Team