
SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL

Mrs K Dodd
Headteacher



STUMBLE HILL
SHIPBOURNE
TONBRIDGE
KENT
TN11 9PB

Tel: 01732 810344
Fax: 01732 811355

E-mail: office@shipbourne.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.shipbourne.kent.sch.uk

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Dear Parents,

Once again, the past term seems to have whizzed by at an astonishing pace. The children have worked incredibly hard as they started a new school year and have arrived every day eager to learn and do their very best.

Over the past few weeks, I have been busy planning for the new term, and we already have many exciting events to look forward to. Our main topics are Leisure and Entertainment, with a particular focus on the 1960s, Forces and Mapwork.

In English, we will be using the book 'The Black Dog' and footage of the first lunar landing to inspire both creative and non-fiction writing, something which the children are becoming very skilled at. The enthusiasm and progress made in writing this year has been a pleasure to witness, and I am really looking forward to reading what the children continue to produce. In maths, we will continue to develop skills in using decimals and percentages before extending proficiency with calculations and problem solving. Year 6 will extend their knowledge of algebra and begin to prepare for the end of KS2 SAT assessments which take place in May. All children will also extend their grasp of time-telling and will be working with more complex time problems. It would be very beneficial if children who struggle in these areas spend time over the coming weeks perfecting their skills in readiness for the problem-solving that we will explore.

In music, we will continue learning the ocarina before moving onto recorders nearer Easter. Our musician of the term will be Evelyn Glennie, and we will all develop our own skills using percussion instruments as well as using the BBC Ten Pieces to develop awareness of a range of contemporary and classical music. In art, we will be developing model-making, as well as learning about the work of Andy Warhol, our artist of the term. During the week beginning 19th February, we will be holding another whole-school Design Technology week. Fairlawne Class will be designing and making electric quiz boards. You are invited to come along and help your child with their project on Wednesday 21st February, from 2pm onwards. In addition to our main learning areas, year 5 and 6 hope to cook a delicious Farmers' breakfast at the Chaser on Thursday 25th January, and we will open the classroom for a 'Class Museum' on Monday 26th March from 2.30pm. Year 5 will also complete CAT tests at the end of February. You will be given the results of these tests during parent consultations and you are invited to attend a short Secondary Transfer information presentation on February 28th; straight after school in the classroom.

Homework next term will focus on English and maths linked to classroom learning. Spelling lists for testing and times tables will also be sent home weekly. It is also very important that children

read as often as possible, discussing their books with an adult. A record of any reading should be made in the yellow contact books. Children reading regularly are noted in school and will receive a certificate at the end of term. We will also continue with our poems of the week and children should aim to know their poem off by heart next term. The poem does not need to be very long.

As your child returns to school, please could you make a quick check that pencil cases, school uniform and PE kits are fully resourced. Children will be taking part in gymnastics and dance, and may bring in leotards or shorts and T shirts for these lessons, but outdoor kit must also be provided. All children should have one named pencil case stocked with pencils, a handwriting pen, eraser, ruler, sharpener, glue stick and colouring pencils (all named please). Felt-tipped pens and fine-liners are optional but gel pens are not required and are best left at home. Children's uniform should also be clearly labelled, so that any lost items can be returned quickly. Please could you also ensure that PE kits, including a warm jumper and trainers, are available in school every day and, once again, that they are clearly labelled. If girls wear tights, spare socks are also required for all PE lessons, please. An apron for art would be very useful – a second hand adult shirt or t shirt is perfect. Finally, all children will need a named water bottle with a sports cap so that they can drink in class whenever they wish to. Your co-operation in helping your child to be fully resourced is really appreciated and helps the school day to run smoothly.

On either Tuesday 27th or Wednesday 28th March, you will have the opportunity to visit us and discuss your child's progress and targets. However, should you have any concerns prior to this then please pop in after school or make an appointment via Mrs Headon in the office.

Have a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday 4th January.

Mrs Holmes