**MEET THE TEACHER:MRS HOLLIS – KESTRELS 2019**

Introduction:

* Welcome to Kestrel’s class. This year the staff based in here are myself (Mrs Hollis) and Mrs Barnes. On a Friday afternoon Mrs Selwood will be taking the class for science lessons. On a Monday afternoon Mr Tomos Robson from Superstars is taking the children for hockey lessons.
* We do have high expectations in standards and behaviour in Kestrels
* Please do not hesitate to chat to me about any issues that are worrying your child. If there is a problem that may affect your child that day, please have a word with myself or Mrs Barnes before 8.55am. Otherwise the best time is after school when there are no children around.

Curriculum:

* The curriculum is very challenging and many of the old objectives that were in year 6 or 7 (or even above!) need to be taught lower down. This does mean that some children may need support to reach these new standards and this is usually done during lesson time or in our ’10 o’clock’ groups when children are given the chance to consolidate (there is also this slot available to extend children too), often in maths, but also grammar, punctuation and spelling
* Please refer to school website for termly plan overviews/topic webs/ class photos/ news items etc
* We really try to build up children’s independence in this class (in readiness for transition to secondary school).
* PE this term is on a Monday and Tuesday. We normally encourage children to bring in a separate sports kit to school for clubs so that their school PE kit remains in school *(taken home each half term for a wash, unless ultra muddy!)*. Trainers are preferable rather than plimsolls (as these prove a little dangerous and ill-fitting as the children get bigger and faster at running)
* Can we ensure that everything is named (including each part of the school uniform)
* We encourage children to use ink pens rather than biros to enhance handwriting flow; we do have erasable roller pens for sale in school for £1 each (See Mrs Hollis or Mrs Barnes)
* Children are encouraged to bring in their own small pencil case of equipment

Homework:

* General homework is given out on a Monday…back in the following Monday….an overview sheet explains each activity (30 minutes maximum a night to include reading, spellings, times tables etc. Maths and English work is always related to something that the children have already had lessons on in class time) and there is a space for your comments, if you feel it necessary (eg needs more support to understand etc).
* Spellings are given out on a Monday and are due back in on Friday; LOOK READ COVER WRITE CHECK is a proven way that the brain overlearns spelling patterns etc; we also expect the children to write a sentence on the back (or on lined paper) to include each of the words, in order to further their vocabulary knowledge and understanding of the word.
* Times tables homework is given out on a Monday and is expected back in on the Tuesday morning for their times tables/ division quick recall test.
* Reading for pleasure is expected (newspapers, novels, non-fiction, poetry etc); please sign that you have witnessed your child read/have listened to them reading in the purple reading journal once a week. – Please ensure your child has this in school on a daily basis as they have daily reading activities; Mrs Barnes and I will monitor the books once a week during guided reading sessions / Monday morning. If your child has read for pleasure three times during the week (and has been logged down in their reading journal with appropriate comments from them and they have an adult signature) then they will be awarded a raffle ticket, which then goes into a pot. A ticket per half term is then drawn out of the pot, whereby the child chosen, will be able to choose a book prize from our box.

Daily routines:

* Children come in the morning at 8.45am and get themselves ready to learn (ie have their pencil cases ready, put named drinks bottles in tray and lunch boxes in appropriate place) and then proceed to carry out the spelling activity on the board, in order to get their minds thinking
* On a Monday, dinner menus are collected in by myself and sent to the kitchen (so that the appropriate amount of food can be ordered for the week ahead)
* Any reply slips are also handed in to the class teacher (by the child) to not only reinforce independence but also so that the office staff are not continually disturbed in the mornings
* Daily mile takes place at some time during the day
* Morning lessons start at 8.55am, usually with our English lesson. At 10am it is our guided reading time where the children rotate to listen to CD story, play a reading game, free choice read, read in preparation for session with teacher and a guided reading session once a week with the teacher (or support groups), which is followed by assembly, snack time, then break-time. Please can you encourage your child to bring a healthy snack in and a named water bottle that can be refilled (especially for PE lessons). At 11.10am our maths lesson takes place, then a lunch break from 12.15-1.15pm. The afternoon usually begins with the daily mile followed by Times Tables Rockstars practise /quiet reading time/reflection time; following sessions then vary from day to day: topic, PE, computing, PSHE, art, D&T etc and the day usually finishes with our class reading book (Goodnight Mr Tom presently). The day then finishes at 3.15pm whereby the children are picked up by a carer from the library door/walk home independently, or go to after school club in Pippins. The children know that if their usual adult is not there after a given time, that they must come back inside the classroom, to the teacher.
* We do encourage children to use the toilets during their break times, but if your child has a medical problem that we are not aware of, please let us know
* Generally we have a trip or a visitor to class at least once a term, additionally we have Mr Gucak coming for some Wednesday afternoon sessions to do bible stories through drama.

Monitors

* As we are the oldest children in the school the children carry out the important monitor roles that enable us to run smoothly as a whole school (eg sorting out milk, assembly monitors etc). The children continue their monitor role for a term and then are swapped accordingly

SATS

* If your child is in Y6 this year it is an important transition year, getting them ‘secondary ready’. Please could you avoid holidays in the run up to SATS next year, and obviously the week in which they take place: **11-14TH May 2020**

Finally

* If anybody would like to come and help in Kestrel’s class it would be much appreciated… help with readers/ spelling games/art work / maths games/sewing etc…there is always a job that needs doing in here!