**Meet the teacher 2018 – KESTRELS**

Introduction:

* Welcome to Kestrel’s class. This year the staff based in here are myself and Mrs Barnes.
* We do have high expectations in standards and behaviour (See Home School agreement)
* 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 Thursday; 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!)*. 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); last year there were many lost items!
* It is crucial that parents read their letter / texts/ emails sent home and ‘return slips’ are sent back accordingly, as this was a real weakness last year and caused many issues
* We encourage children to use ink pens rather than biros; we do have erasable roller pens for sale in school for £1 each
* Children are encouraged to bring in their own pencil case of equipment

Homework:

* General homework 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, sometimes project research work etc) and there is a space for your comments if you feel it necessary (eg too hard, needs more support etc).
* Spellings given out on a Monday, 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 to include each of the words (neatly on lines), 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 homework is expected and crucial in Y6 (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. – Please ensure your child has this in school on a daily basis as they have daily reading activities; I will monitor the books once a week during guided reading sessions

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 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
* Morning lessons start at 8.55am, usually with our English lesson. At 10am it is our guided reading time (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 followed by spelling work then a lunch break from 12.15-1.15pm. The afternoon begins with quiet reading time/reflection time, following sessions vary: topic, PE, computing, PSHE, art, D&T etc. The day is then rounded off with our class reading book and school closes at 3.15pm whereby the children are picked up by a carer/walk home independently, or go to after school club in Pippins. 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 . This term we also have the Mini Marines in every Thursday afternoon for outdoor activities, We also have Mr Gucak coming in for some fortnightly afternoon sessions to teach 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 locking and unlocking gate, sorting out milk and fruit, assembly monitors etc). The children continue their monitor role for a term and then are swapped accordingly

Finally

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