



Stanton-in-Peak
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Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents,

We hope that all children have enjoyed their first week back at school, we would like to extend a big welcome and inform you of a few changes we have made to the curriculum this year.

Spelling

We are always looking to adapt our teaching practice to ensure it has the most impact on your child's progression. Last year, despite many children scoring highly on their weekly spelling tests, the spelling within their independent written work was not always as strong as the results from the weekly tests would suggest it should be. In an attempt to move away from simply teaching for a test, we have planned daily spelling activities for the children to engage with in class. Your child will continue to have a weekly spelling list to learn; however, there will be no 'spelling test' at the end of the week and your child will not be required to learn their spellings at home. Teacher's will assess progress throughout the week and whilst marking independent written work.

We know how arduous and time-consuming practicing spelling can be. Instead, we would encourage you to listen to your child read at home as much as possible. There are overwhelming correlations between children that read for pleasure and children that are confident at spelling.

A termly spelling list will be sent home to inform you of the words they are learning in class – perhaps for the fridge to allow for an occasional spot check?



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Reading Challenges

As you know reading is incredibly important to the development of your child. It helps them to develop their imaginations, learn about the world and acquire a wide range of vocabulary. It also serves to open up other areas of the curriculum to them and supports both their reasoning and critical thinking skills.

Last year we introduced a series of exciting reading challenges. The aim of these challenges is to encourage your children to read a broad range of exciting books and help them to become enthusiastic and avid readers.

In total there are 9 reading challenges all named after mountains. Each challenge consists of a series of books (copies are available in school) and challenges that we have created to go alongside them. For challenge number 1 the children must 'climb' Mam Tor, whilst for challenge number 9 they must 'scale' Everest. The challenges and books increase in difficulty as the mountains become higher. Once a child has completed all books and challenges they may move on to the next mountain.

During last year's lockdown and over the summer some children made good progress through the challenges, however not all of this has been recorded in school. Next week each class teacher will send home a reading challenge 'mountain' to be either updated or started. We really hope this will inspire your child to read and begin a lifelong love of reading!

Note – If any children have reading challenge books/school reading books at home it would be greatly appreciated if these could be brought back to school.

Curriculum

Over the last 12 months we have been busy developing a new curriculum which we are excited to introduce this year. We have designed our curriculum to deliver the national primary objectives in a way which not only reflects our values as a school community but fosters the most meaningful experiences and application of learning for our pupils. We want each child to leave Stanton with a strong foundation of knowledge and understanding of the world in which we live: an appreciation of its diverse cultures; respect for our changing environment and to be positive global citizens. Each term children will explore a different country (planet or region in infants), studying its geography, history, culture and significant contributions to society.

As the children move from term to term and year to year, studying a range of countries for all continents they will build an in depth understanding of the world. We believe that making links between each country and providing a real life context will make learning relevant and memorable. We also know that good learning is a product of strong partnerships between home and school so each term we will invite parents into school providing an opportunity to showcase our work.

Kind regards,

Mr Sizer, Miss Birkin and Mr Figg