



Poplar – Autumn 2017

Values of the term: Love and Creation

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I have had a fabulous first couple of days in Poplar class – the children were very welcoming, happy, polite and very excited to continue their learning! If you haven't had the opportunity to meet me yet, and see our wonderful new extended classroom, please do come and say hello at the end of the school day.

Here is some information I hope you will find useful – if you want to know anything else then please ask.

Our topic this term is **Castles** – please have a look at the topic web to see the exciting learning that will be happening. On Friday 29th September we will be visiting Donnington Castle. Please see separate letter and consent form.

Morning and end of school day routine

Registration is at 8.50am in the classroom. The children have the opportunity to take part in daily fitness between 8.40am – 8.50am.

At the end of the day the children will be lined up on the playground at 3.15pm. If a different adult is picking up your child then please let me know in writing in advance / on the school day.

Show and tell

Children are enthusiastic to take part in Show and Tell because they can share things that are meaningful to them. Show and Tell offers a great opportunity to develop speaking and listening skills and each long term we would like all children to take part. For this to be a positive learning opportunity we have agreed some rules:

- You can talk about a place you have been, a hobby or interest, something that is special to you or something related to our topic
- Be prepared to talk for about a minute; if you are prepared it will help your audience to listen
- If possible, visual images and props will help to capture the interest of your audience

This activity should be fun and is relaxed so please do not spend lots of time preparing. The children's speaking and listening skills will continue to develop throughout the year.

Homework

Homework will be sent out on a Wednesday to be returned please on the following Tuesday. An information sheet will be provided of the learning that has taken place that week and ideas/suggested activities of how to support at home. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

At Key Stage 1, the greatest priority is daily reading – please aim for 10 minutes per day. This time will make a huge difference to your child's progress and will continue to develop their enjoyment of books and love of reading. Children will take home one reading book which will be at their reading level and any other book from the class or school library. Books should be shared and loved so please read to your child, or take turns reading, and explore the book. Please note down in your child's reading record after they have read.



Stay and Play

Children love to share with you what they have been learning in school with you so we will have a Stay and Play opportunity once a term. This will be an opportunity to look at your child's learning journey and to take part in some activities with your child. The dates for this term and the next are:

Tuesday 17th October and Thursday 14th December

PE and outdoor activity

Children will be taking part in Physical Education twice a week on a Monday and a Wednesday. However, this may change so please make sure your child has their full kit in every day and that it is clearly labelled with their name. Long hair must be tied up and if your child wears earrings please supply a roll of micro porous tape so they can be covered; this is essential for health and safety reasons. We regularly take the children out and about in the local area and will go out whatever the weather so please make sure your child has wellington boots and a waterproof coat in school; these can be kept in school. On a Monday afternoon the children will join Mrs Green in Oak class in a variety of Outdoor Explorer activities. No additional clothing is needed for this – the children just need their waterproof coat and wellies.

Resources

If you have any resources we could have please send them in, such as:

- Art and DT resources e.g. cereal boxes, larger cardboard boxes, tubes, small pots with lids, newspapers
- Topic resources e.g. castle role play items, books on castles (Please label any items that you would like back and we will return them at the end of term)

If you would like to talk to me at any time in the year please do not hesitate to come and speak to me at the end of the school day or book an appointment with the office at a convenient time.

I hope you and your child have a lovely year in Poplar class and I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Mrs McDaid and the Poplar team.