

**St Andrew's CE VC Primary School**  
**Church Lane, Cromhall, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos, GL12 8AL**  
**Tel & Fax: 01454 294498**  
**Email: StAndrewsPrimary@sgmail.org.uk**  
**Headteacher: Mrs H Green**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to another school year at St. Andrew's. I really hope you have all enjoyed the summer with your children and that you have managed to spend some quality time together making memories. It is always a bit of a shock to the system to both children and staff to come back after such a long break! We are all hoping for a more normal year this year with our regular school events coming back.

### **Supporting at home:**

Parents often ask how they can support their children at home with their learning. Reading is the most important thing you can do at home with your child. Please continue to read to your child and also discuss their personal reading with them. Reading should be for pleasure so please come and see me if you would like support in choosing books your child may enjoy. Here are a few websites with some really good suggestions in the meantime: [Year 5](#) and [Year 6](#). Please find below some questions you could ask your child to further develop their reading skills:

- How could you summarise the story so far?
- What does this word mean in this sentence?
- What alternative words could the author have used?
- Who is your favourite character and why?
- What is this character like as a person? How do you know – encourage your child to think about how the character has behaved, how other characters react when they are around, how they speak etc.
- How is this character feeling at this point? How do you know (Focus on how they are speaking, how they move etc.)

Key number facts and mental maths skills are also important. One way of practising these is playing family board games, especially ones involving money, e.g. Monopoly, Game of Life etc. There are also lots of online games which children enjoy playing. Please also continue practising times tables, especially speed of recall. Please find a few website suggestions below:

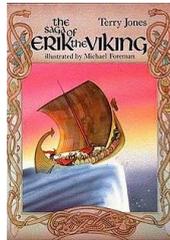
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/ordering-and-sequencing-numbers>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>
- <https://mathsframe.co.uk/>
- <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy.html>
- <http://www.primarygames.com/math.php>

### **Our curriculum focus - Why invade?**

Our learning for the first two terms is linked heavily to history and geography with the title – Why Invade? In Term 1 we will be learning about the Vikings, where they came from, where and why they settled and their legacy. To launch this, we have a local historian coming in to do a workshop with us on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Class texts:**

Our first class text this term is 'The Saga of Erik the Viking' by Terry Jones. This is a great text to help the children understand the beliefs of the Vikings as well as learn about their weapons, food and ships. Each chapter is a short story in its own right and the children will be writing an additional chapter for the book as part of their English. The children are really enjoying it so far!



As well as this, we will be reading a range of non-fiction books about the Vikings to support us with learning more about them and writing our own double page spread for a non-fiction Viking text.

## PE

Our PE days this term will continue to be Thursdays and Fridays so please make sure your child comes into school on these days wearing appropriate clothing. Obviously the weather is still very changeable so please make sure they are dressed appropriately as PE is often outside, whatever the weather! A reminder of clothing expectations: **plain black** shorts/leggings/joggers; a plain white t-shirt or blue t-shirt with or without the school logo; a **black plain** sweat top or school sweat top or school fleece; daps or trainers (trainers are preferable as most PE activities will be outdoors).

## Home Learning and Spelling

The homework expectations are slightly different in Year 5 & 6. This is to help the children with the transition to secondary school, where the homework expectations are much greater. There is still the same grid of choices, but rather than choosing three tasks over the whole term, there will be tasks to choose from per fortnight with a deadline for at least one piece by the end of that fortnight. After each deadline, the children will have the opportunity to share their efforts in class so please make sure that your child efforts are sent in or emailed to me by each deadline.

Each Friday there is a spelling test in class. The spellings for the whole term have also been emailed to you but these, along with the homework tasks, are also always available on the school website:

<https://www.standrewsschoolcromhall.org.uk/class-newsletters-etc/>

I have also sent home the whole list of statutory spellings for Year 5 & 6. The children need to be able to spell all of these by the end of Year 6 as well as using them in their independent writing. To help them with this, I will choose a selection each term which link as much as possible to our learning in class. We will also look at different spelling patterns which will help children develop strategies for new words. Spellings sent home will be a mixture of statutory words and ones following a pattern studied in class. Another document I have given you has suggested strategies for helping the children learn new words. These are strategies they will have learned about in class.

## Key information:

- |               |   |  |
|---------------|---|--|
| PE days       | - | Thursday and Friday  |
| Wellies       | - | Need to be in school all the time  |
| Library       | - | Year 5 & 6 children will be able to change their library book each Wednesday afternoon so please bring back finished books before then |
| Drink         | - | Water bottles should be brought into school and taken home daily. Water only please  |
| Jewellery     | - | Only stud earrings and a watch to be worn into school. Earrings to be removed or taped up for PE                                       |
| Home learning | - | Due fortnightly on a Friday  |

It is really lovely to be able to see you all in the playground again. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see me or to send me an email.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs. Sarah Woodcock