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**The Federation of**

**Bishop Sutton and Stanton Drew Primary Schools**

Stanton Drew Primary School

Upper Stanton

 Stanton Drew BS39 4EQ

Tel: 01275 332820

stantondrew\_pri@bathnes.gov.uk

Bishop Sutton Primary School

Wick Rd

Bishop Sutton BS39 5XD

Tel: 01275 332817

bishopsutton\_pri@bathnes.gov.uk

 18 September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A very warm welcome back to school after such a strange time. I hope that everyone had a great summer break and you are all returning ready for some exciting challenges ahead! We are both very excited about welcoming everyone back to school, whilst also being mindful that returning to school after such a long time may involve lots of mixed emotions for some children. We will be focusing on this adjustment with the children so please be assured that as well as resuming normal classroom learning, your children’s wellbeing remains an equal priority.

Swans Teaching staff

Mrs Cotton teaches Swans on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Miss Wools on Thursdays and Fridays. Mr Cook will teach French, RE and PE on some Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Mrs Witcher is the class teaching assistant on a Monday and Tuesday morning. We will have an external PE coach, Akeel, on a Thursday afternoon.

Topic and curriculum

This term our topic will be Rivers. We will be learning about key aspects of physical geography, whilst also developing our place knowledge and our ability to use maps and atlases. We hope to have a local field trip this term if we are able to. More details to follow shortly.

Initially, the whole school will have a shared learning experience, focusing on the book, Here we Are by Oliver Jeffers. Our first class book will be The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd. We will also look at a number of other fiction and non-fiction books, both in English and other subjects, to develop our skills as readers and writers. This term we will be focusing on a revision of the previous years’ learning and building on this with the new year 4 objectives.

In maths, we will be starting off focusing on place value, and move on to do some addition and subtraction, measurement, and multiplication and division. Again, we will be revisiting previous learning and building on this with the year 4 objectives. We will use lots of problem solving and reasoning activities to strengthen and deepen our learning, as well as practise and varied fluency to consolidate basic concepts.

In science this term we will be learning about sound and exploring this in lots of practical ways. In computing we will have a continued focus on e-safety and using the internet to support our learning.

In RE the children will be considering the question ‘What is important to me?’ (i.e. exploring ideas of what it is to be human and relating this to religious and other beliefs). In French we will continue to build up our knowledge of simple vocabulary and begin to learn school/classroom associated vocabulary. We have an exciting new scheme this year called ‘Language Angels’; the two units we will learn between now and December are ‘Je me présente’ and ‘En famille’.

Our PSHE in Term 1 will be based on a specific ‘Bounce Back’ curriculum. This support programme for schools and families was designed by EPIC Psychology & Wellbeing Service in response to the return to school following lockdown. In Term 2 we will continue with our Jigsaw scheme and the ‘Celebrating Differences’ unit.

P.E

Please can all children **wear their P.E kit on a Tuesday and Thursday**. Please ensure your child has a drink, suitable shoes and a coat in school every PE day as we will be doing PE outside regardless of the weather!

Outside learning and play

Our learning environment, although physically the same, needs to be used slightly differently. We have set play areas and the forest area. We would like the children to be able to use all the outside areas when appropriate, so it is important that they have welly boots or old, waterproof footwear that stay in school for the week. We would like to be able to use as many opportunities as possible to learn and play outside, so everyone needs to be able to access all areas with the correct footwear. There is a cupboard in Swans’ cloakroom to keep this footwear tidy, however naming your child’s items is essential and very helpful!

Homework

This term we are going to focus on regular reading, recorded in your child’s reading diary, practising times tables and our weekly spellings. Throughout the week if you could find time to help your children practise their tables and spelling that would be fantastic. Little and often really does make a massive difference. If there are any problems with your child completing homework for a specific reason or they are having difficulty with it, please let us know. The intention is to support your child’s learning and develop skills and confidence. As we teach we might notice small steps your child needs to practise or consolidate and we may message you on class dojo to ask you to help them by practising these at home.

Reading

Please continue to encourage your child to read daily. This can be independently; or to someone else; as this is an important part of their reading practice.

Spelling

We have attached a copy of the terms spelling lists so you can see which spellings to focus on each week. We will be working on Week 3 spellings the week commencing 21 September 2020. Please do revisit previous week’s spellings at the end of the term as we will also be doing this in class. There are all sorts of ways that you can practise spellings, we have attached some ideas – or feel free to make up your own. Let us know the ways that work best.

Year 4 – Times tables

The year 4 National Curriculum objective is for children to be able to recall all multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12. From this academic year, there may be a statutory times tables test for all Year 4 children nationally. If this happens, it will take place in June next year and will test them on all their tables. Some good websites to practise tables on are [www.timestables.co.uk](http://www.timestables.co.uk), <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> and <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/> We will do lots of practise in school but it is really important children practise at home as well. All the children can log in to Times Tables Rock stars (<https://ttrockstars.com/> ) at home – a fantastic way to practice times tables at speed and to play!

Unfortunately we cannot say to pop in and see us as we usually would but instead, please don’t hesitate to email the office or message us on Class Dojo if you would like to ask any questions or discuss anything and we will email you back or phone you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mrs Cotton and Miss Wools