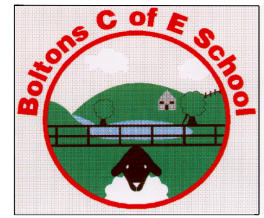


BOLTONS

Church of England Primary School



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Date: 15th April 2024

Bolton Low Houses
Wigton, Cumbria
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Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. Firstly, I would like to say thank you for the lovely gift I received at the end of last half term, it was a lovely, thoughtful, and very much appreciated. This term, Year 1 will be supported by Mrs Lowther. Here is a letter explaining general information about homework, spellings, reading, phonics and PE lessons. For the other subjects, I have emailed the summer term curriculum overview to inform you of the things that will be taught in all the subject areas.

Friday 3rd May will be my last day before my maternity leave. Mrs Pitcher will take over teaching year 1 from Tuesday 7th May. Year 1 will continue to be taught the same and they will join year 2 on some afternoons. It has been an absolute pleasure to teach your children for almost 2 years. They have all made incredible progress. It has been wonderful to see them all grow in confidence and develop as young people. I am so proud of them all and I will certainly miss them.

Phonics and Reading

This term, we will continue to work on Level 5/Phase 5 phonics for the remainder of the school year. Your child will receive their updated phonics books weekly. We will listen to the children read, as often as possible and will leave comments in their reading records. However, it is important that you listen to your child read as often as possible too, as this will enable them to progress at a faster rate. When you listen to your child read, it is important that you discuss the story and ask questions about the text they are reading (the reading books have questions at the end of the book, which you can use), because their understanding of the book is as equally important as being able to read mechanically. Please record when you listened to your child read in their reading record book, along with a short comment saying how they did or any struggles they faced. It is also important that they get the opportunity to reread their reading books, as this also helps to build up word fluency and understanding of the text. We will also be continuing our **reading challenge** so please keep reading at least 4 times a week for a golden ticket!

PE

This half term, the children will need their PE kits every **Tuesday and Thursday**.

For the final half term, the children will need their PE kits every **Wednesday and Thursday**.

However, we are very fortunate to have many coaches come in to teach PE, so this can change regularly. Therefore, if possible, we would recommend that the children bring their PE kits in on Monday and take them home with them on Friday. This allows us to be flexible with PE lessons.

May I remind you to send your child with full PE kit in school for these days. Please make sure they have a pair of trainers, as well as pumps, a white t-shirt, black shorts and a pair or tracksuit bottoms and a spare jumper or tracksuit top. It is the responsibility of the child to remove all of their jewellery, therefore I advise that earrings are either removed before attending school in the morning or your child has a container to keep them safe.

Homework and Spellings

Homework and spellings will continue to be set each Friday and sent home in their homework books. Homework is to be completed and handed in by the following Wednesday to be marked and set again. The children are encouraged to keep a copy of their spellings when they get home, so they can continue to practise, and they will be tested on these spellings every Friday. It is really important that the children practise their spellings regularly throughout the week to ensure they are fully embedded, so that they will apply them to their writing.

Tapestry

We continue to use Tapestry in Key Stage 1 as it is always lovely to see what your child gets up to weekly. Tapestry in Year 1

will allow me to photograph any “WOW” moments, group work and any work your child feels proud of. It will also continue to be a communication platform, so if you have any questions or concerns you can send them directly to me. If your child would also like to share any images from home then please do not hesitate to send them in.

Online Safety

The internet is a tremendous resource for learning, leisure and interacting with other people, but there are potential risks that we all need to be aware of, to ensure we can help children and young people stay safe online. Therefore, we have regular online safety sessions to help equip them with the tools and skills they need to stay safe as they become more active online. Within school, we have strong firewalls to ensure children only have access to sites and programs that are age appropriate, and we all follow National online safety guidelines. Through conversations at school, we know many children already have parental controls on devices they use at home, but we encourage you to continue conversations about online safety at home too, so they know who to speak to if they come across something that worries them or makes them feel uncomfortable online. If you would like support adding parental locks please ask or use the following website for further support and advice.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Parental-controls/>

If you have any questions about any areas of the curriculum or general enquiries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via the school office or on Tapestry.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support for the past 2 years.

Many Thanks,

Kirsty Bell