



Aim High, Fly High

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you have enjoyed the Christmas break and are all well. I wanted to say thank you for all the wonderful gifts I received at the end of last term. It was a very kind gesture which was warmly received, many of them in my belly (if you did not pass a gift that was edible then do not worry, I have not eaten it.).

I am pleased to welcome everyone back this term. My key focus initially will be settling the children, addressing any anxieties and focusing on positive learning behaviours. I am confident the class will thrive on being back together at school after the short break. I have seen that the children have already settled into the learning behaviours they had learnt in the Autumn term.

Once we are settled, we will have a very busy term ahead of us. Our main learning focus will be our topic "Europe" in the first half term. In this topic we will study the climates and biomes of areas of Europe and compare these to an area in North or South America. In addition, this term's science topics will be: *Animals including humans and electricity*. More information about the learning we will be doing can be found on the accompanying curriculum grid.

This term P.E. will be on a Tuesday and Thursday every week. Please ensure that your child has appropriate P.E. kit for the weather (school PE t-shirt with the logo on or a plain white T-shirt, shorts or jogging trousers, school sweatshirt and suitable trainers for outside activities). Please also be aware that, for health and safety reasons, earrings must be removed for P.E. Children will not change for PE sessions in school and so will continue to wear kit to school on PE days. Children will also run the daily mile each day and will have an outdoor learning session every week.

Children are welcome to bring in a healthy fruit or vegetable snack during morning playtime. We ask children to bring a named bottle of water to drink during the day which will be returned for washing every evening. To carry these items, children may bring a **small bag** to school each day. The children must be able to hang this small bag with their coat on the trolley outside the classroom. If children choose a packed lunch they should bring that too.

Home learning in Year 3 is a mixture of compulsory and optional activities. Each week, children will be expected to practise their times tables, spellings and reading each day. Times Tables Rockstars and Spelling Shed can be used to practise key skills in these areas and they will be assessed on their progress in spelling each Friday. Passwords for Starz, Rockstars and Spelling Shed can be requested at anytime.

Your child should also continue to read regularly at home and complete a weekly challenge from our Guided Reading learning challenge grid. The grid can be found as an attachment to this email and activities should be completed in home learning books.

In addition, a grid of home learning activities will be provided. In Year 3, this grid of home learning is *optional* and children are encouraged to choose the activities they would like to complete. The activities are a mixture of English and Maths tasks alongside topic-based learning. These tasks should also be sent back completed in home learning books please.

We will be sending a P.E. bag home. Each week a child from the class will have a chance to take a bag with P.E. equipment home. There will also be a book inside with a checklist of items, suggestions for games to play at home and some space for pictures to be stuck in. Please feel free to add games you have played so others can enjoy your creative time as well. I hope you do not feel pressure with this bag. Do as much or as little as you wish. There is also a space for suggestions. I will be happy to hear feedback. If you could return the bag on a Monday then I can ensure it is passed onto the next person. If any equipment is lost or breaks then please inform me so I am aware.

My final request is if there are any packs of cards that are spare at home. I would like to use these for times table games. Do not worry if they are not complete. We will be looking at collages in our terms Art project. We will be looking at people and collages, so if you have any magazines or newspapers that are suitable for school, please send them to school with your child. We are also running low on glue sticks and whiteboard markers. If you can, please bring some to school for your child or any who need them. Thank you for your contributions.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's time in Blackbirds please do make an appointment via the school office. These meetings can be on the phone, virtually or in person. Quick notices can be passed to me via the school office or by leaving a message with the member of staff on gate duty. Please note that our class email addresses are no longer in use and all emails should be addressed for the school office.

I look forward to seeing the progress we make in this next term.

Best wishes,

Sam Butler
Blackbirds class teacher