



Kington St. Michael C.E. Primary School

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Term 1 Overview for Parents of children in Blackbird Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a lovely summer holiday! We would like to welcome your child to Kington St. Michael School and to Blackbirds class. We have an exciting and busy term ahead of us. Our teaching will be practical and cross-curricular. It will involve lots of hands-on experiences and learning through child-initiated play.

We will be spending this term getting to know the children, their likes, dislikes, and their backgrounds, who lives with them, what their homes are like and if they have any pets! We will also be going over our class and school rules and getting use to daily routines in the classroom and throughout the school.

The main theme for this term is 'Please tell me a story'. We will be looking at the stories 'Jack and the Beanstalk, The Little Red Hen and The Enormous Turnip'. We will be making our own bread, turnip soup and going on several welly walks, we will also be blackberry picking in the local area. We will be looking at telling and retelling stories, and innovating our own stories.

For a more detailed overview of this terms topic please see the Curriculum Overview Jigsaw attached. This is divided into the different curricular areas. It can also be viewed on our school website. When planning we are guided by your child and our plans do alter to meet their changing needs and interests. We talk about our learning objectives before each lesson, so your child has a clear understanding of what they are doing and why.

We look at each child as an individual and plan Maths and English activities specifically to meet their next learning steps. Our assessments are detailed and regularly updated. We work well as a team and we have the same clear high expectations and standards. Baseline assessments will be carried out in the first few weeks of term. These will be fun and play based.

In Blackbirds class, we do not set regular, formal homework. We feel it should be kept to a minimum and should be fun, purposeful and relevant. Homework activities should be built on learning that has taken place in school. Homework we set in Blackbirds class consists initially of daily reading and handwriting, based on the handwriting that we are teaching at the time.

Reading Books.

We usually give each child two reading books to share and read with you at home. Your child will select one book from our reading scheme, which is matched to their phonic knowledge, and the other is a storybook for you to read with your child. We aim to hear your child read at least once a week and change the books when they have been shared at home. In school, your child will read to their class teacher or a

teaching assistant. We try to keep comments in the Reading Diary positive and we would speak to you if we felt there was a problem or a misunderstanding. We teach reading through our daily literacy and phonics lessons. The reading books are a way of helping your child to consolidate their reading skills and for you to share their learning. It also enables you to see how their reading is progressing. We estimate that it should take 10-15 minutes to hear your child read each night. Reading should be an enjoyable activity. We want to instil a love for books and reading in your child. If it is not a positive experience at home, please come and talk to us so that we can discuss it and resolve it together. Your child does not have to read BOTH books every night. If they are tired and only want to share one story then that is fine. Write this in the Diary and we will just change one book next time. It is more important that it is a positive experience for them to read with you. Ideally, your child should try to read every day but we know that this is not always possible.

Learning Lenny.

We will also introduce Lenny the Learning Labrador to your child. Each child will have the opportunity to take Learning Lenny home for the weekend and try to teach him a new skill or new experience! Your child can photograph or draw a picture of them. Each child then talks to the class about what new skill Lenny achieved or learnt. We then make a class book of Learning Lenny's adventures!

PE

Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school at all times. They will need shorts, outside trainers, a tracksuit or joggers and a fleece, as it can be a bit chilly at times, especially first thing in the mornings. T-shirts should be in the appropriate colour for your child's house. Earrings will need to be removed or covered. Please check everything is named. A spare set of clothes and a carrier bag is also useful to deal with any little accidents! A pair of named wellington boots should also be left in school as we do go out on regular welly walks. Your child will also need a coat as we do go for walks whatever the weather! Hopefully, we will see some sunshine in September so please can you ensure your child has a soft brimmed named sun hat in school to wear when playing outside, which can be kept in their trays. Your child will also need a named drinks bottle in school filled with water, which they are free to access throughout the day.

The Team

Mrs Bevan will be teaching full time in Blackbirds. Mrs Croffie will be the teaching assistant in the morning Monday to Friday and Mrs Rogers will be the teaching assistant in the afternoon Monday to Friday.

We are hoping that your child will love coming to school and will settle into Blackbird class quickly. It can take some children longer than others to feel happy and confident and we will work with you all to achieve this. We also realise that it is a learning curve for many parents too and we are keen to resolve any problems or queries that you might have, so please come and talk to us after school. We want your child to have a positive, flying start at KSM to set firm foundations for their learning journey with us. We want them, and you, to see starting school as a positive, exciting experience. We are excited about working and learning alongside them!

Mrs Bevan, Mrs Croffie and Mrs Rogers