



Worplesdon Primary School – Weekly Update

Friday 14th January

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week, we have begun our new maths unit on multiplication and division. We have recapped and reminded children of the layout for written multiplication calculations, which has brought to our attention that a lot of children are not secure on their times tables. Please can we ask that you support your child by regularly practising these by using Times Tables Rockstars or by playing games that reinforce these at home. They are a vital tool in children's learning and a lot of children have found starting this unit particularly tricky as they are not secure in their times tables knowledge.

In English, we have started looking at the prologue for the book Sky Song. We will be reinforcing our understanding of clauses and commas within this unit of work as well as working towards creating our own version of the text. This will include creating their own island and tribes living on the island using the descriptive tools that we learnt to use in the Autumn term.

Please can I draw your attention to a notice put forward in the newsletter last week as it is particularly relevant to some of our children in Year 5:

SMART WATCHES

It has come to our attention that a number of Junior children are coming into school with their smart watches on. We would like to clarify that smart watches must not be worn in class, as they may be a distraction and therefore should be treated the same as a mobile phone. If your child comes to school with their mobile phone or smart watch, it must be handed into the office when they arrive for safe keeping and picked up at the end of the school day. Thank you for your co-operation.

This week, we have introduced the children to the Spring Term Homework Passport. We have talked through examples of what the children could produce for each option and reminded them that they (and you) have complete choice over which six pieces they complete. We recommend that children only attempt one piece each weekend and would not expect to see completed passports this side of half term. We would also remind you not to hand in the passport until the six pieces are complete. Everything needed to explain this in further detail is on Google Classroom, alongside a reminder of the completion date, which is Friday 18th March. We have provided paper copies for those children who have requested them. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact us – the children really enjoy sharing with their friends what they have been completing over the term and we don't want anyone to miss out on this opportunity.

Thank you to those people who have restocked their child's pencil case; it is extremely helpful. As a reminder, the expectation is that everyone has a pencil case containing:

- A blue handwriting pen
- A pencil
- A ruler
- A green biro
- A whiteboard pen
- A whiteboard rubber
- Pritt stick

It is also helpful if children have:

- Scissors
- Coloured pencils



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As it has been a cold start to the term, please can we remind you that children need to bring a coat each day; we also encourage gloves, hats and scarves, but please make sure everything is named! We would also advise that children are wearing winter PE kit – grey jogging bottoms with their Worplesdon T-shirt and a grey jumper – as our PE is outside this term. They are more than welcome to wear their shorts underneath.

Finally, just a reminder that swimming lessons will begin after February half term and run for ten sessions. The content of these lessons is a statutory, National Curriculum requirement for all children. This will be £60 for the full ten sessions covering coach costs and swimming instructor costs. As stated in our letter, which came out this week, it is our aim to take every child swimming, but must also cover costs in order for these lessons to go ahead. It is therefore necessary that we request a voluntary contribution from each family for the full amount of the cost per child. Please make sure this is paid via your Parentmail account. If you have any questions or concerns about swimming, please contact your child's class teacher and speak with them directly; we are more than happy to help!

Additionally, we are looking for parent helpers, who have a valid DBS, to support on these days. If you are able to help, please let the office know. Thank you in advance.

Due to swimming being our PE for these weeks, children will need to wear PE kits on swimming days and PPA PE days, which will be as follows:

JACKDAWS AND OWLS

Mondays (swimming) and Tuesdays (PPA PE)

ROBINS

Tuesdays (PPA PE) and Fridays (swimming).

Children will now be expected to wear normal school uniform on Wednesdays please.

Thank you for your support.

The Year 5 Team

Miss Hines, Mr Kennedy and Mrs Reed

lhines@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk

kreed@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk

akennedy@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk