

# Seahorses Newsletter

Autumn 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! We hope you have all had a great summer. It's so lovely to welcome our new Seahorses and those who we are lucky enough to be keeping for another year.

**Miss Stirk** will be teaching **Monday to Friday mornings and Wednesday afternoons**. **Mrs Silk** will be teaching each **afternoon**. Our **TA** will be **Mrs Riley**.

It is so encouraging to see how brilliantly the children have settled in already to the new routines. Thank you for encouraging them to enter the school at **8.50am** promptly and independently, through the Starfish gate and into school through the mosaic doors. This helps us all to be settled, registered and ready for learning at 9.05am. If you have any concerns or things that we might need to know regarding your child, do please email or leave a telephone message with the office if it is rather more pressing.

## Our Topic

Our topic has a history focus and we are very excited to be studying The Stone Age. The children are already excited about this! If anybody has any expertise that you think might help us to bring this topic alive, it would be great to hear from you. Please find the overview of anticipated learning attached.

## PE

We will continue The Daily Mile and Wake Up, Shake Up. All children should come into school in PE kit on **Tuesday**. This should include a Durweston PE T-shirt, black shorts and sturdy trainers and later in the year, a blue fleece or hoody and dark track- suit bottoms. Spare socks would be helpful too!



## Homework

Your child will be set homework tasks on **Fridays**. These tasks will be on Times Tables RockStars, Maths Shed and Spelling Shed. We will be able to set tasks and monitor them remotely. If access to the internet or technology is an issue, do let us know and we can explore alternatives. Please could we ask that you ensure that your child completes their homework. If for any reason they are unable to complete their assignment in a given week (we do appreciate that some weeks are busier than others), **do let us know** and they can come to **Homework Club**. We would suggest at least 15 minutes a week on spelling practice (ideally a few minutes each day, if they can) **and** 15 minutes on the maths should be plenty. Of course, if they want to spend longer, they can!

By the end of year 3, children are expected to be fluent and rapid in their recall of their 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 X tables. Regular practise at home (on Maths Shed or Times Tables Rock Stars), really does make a difference.

## Reading

Your child will need their **reading books and record in school every day**. We encourage the children to practise their reading regularly at home. Please do **record and sign** your child's reading record, when they share a book with you. This will help us to distinguish between grown-ups at home and school.

To celebrate home reading, we will reward raffle tickets to children who collect 3 or more home signatures per week. Raffle tickets can then be exchanged for a reward on Fridays.

The children (particularly those in year 3) will be expected to write a comment about their reading at least once a week. There are sentence starters in their reading records to support their ideas. If your child finds it tricky to write in the boxes, some parents have pencilled in faint lines, which really help. We have also included ideas of questions that you could ask to improve their comprehension skills.

## **Seahorses Class Library**

Some parents have been asking about recommended books for their children to read. Our class library has a selection from which to choose, but with so many new titles and fabulous children's literature being published, it is a little tricky to keep up with current trends. We have compiled a varied wish list here on Amazon that our library is lacking:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2NH1WCPP7LKNL?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2NH1WCPP7LKNL?ref=wl_share)

By all means, use this list to provide books for your child. However, what would be even better is if you could purchase a book for the class (the address details are already set up). This would allow the whole class to benefit from it and enrich our library even more! Of course, the more people who take part, the greater the choice of books available for your child, at the cost of just one book to yourself.

Please, please do not feel that you must; this is of course, just a suggestion and is in no way compulsory. If you have any of these titles on your shelves at home that you no longer need and wish to donate, we would love to have them.

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### **Gentle Reminders:**

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- **Name labels in all clothes are a must!**
  - **Water bottles and raincoats in school every day too, please.**
  - **All slips returnable in the slip box outside the school office.**
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*The Seahorses Team*

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