

# Redwood Class 2020-21

## Start of the Year Newsletter

Class Teacher: Mr Cottrell

Class TA: Mrs Allen (mornings)

PPA Cover: Thursday Morning - Mrs Hobbs

### Our Current Routine

- On arrival pupils line up at our back door;
- While lining up, pupils should remove their healthy snack, book/ reading record and lunch/ drinks bottle from their book bag;
- They can then place their book bag in the boxes, lunchbox/drink bottle on the lunch trolley and snack in the snack box. This all stays in our classroom;
- Pupils should have a coat in school every day - this will stay on the back of their chairs;
- We wash our hands every time we re-enter the classroom and before eating;
- At the end of the day, pupils will be dismissed from the top gate by a member of staff during our allocated time slot.

*Please help us by ensuring that your child's possessions are clearly labelled.*

*This includes:*

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| • <i>Book Bag (on the outside please!)</i> | • <i>Coat</i>    |
| • <i>Drink Bottle</i>                      | • <i>Uniform</i> |
| • <i>Lunch bag/box</i>                     | • <i>PE Kit</i>  |
| • <i>Snack (as these can get muddled)</i>  |                  |

### Topics

- As introduced last year, we now teach topics in blocks in the afternoon;
- Our focus topics for term one are *Together Everyone Achieves More* (PSHE), *Earth and Space* (Science) and *Ancient Egypt* (History);
- For each focus topic pupils will be given a copy of a Knowledge Organiser with key vocabulary and facts included which they will cover in the unit of learning;
- Knowledge Organisers will be in blue folders which should be kept in pupils' book bags. They may wish to study these at home with parents too.

### PE Information

- Pupils need to come in school in PE kit on PE days;
- PE kit consists of a house colour school polo shirt, black bottoms, trainers and a black jacket/ hoodie;
- PE will be **Thursdays** with coaches from Wiltshire Cricket and also on **Mondays** in Redwood Class;
- Earrings must either be removed, or they must be taped over for safety on PE days.

# Redwood Homework

## Reading

- 📖 Children should now be reading every day for pleasure.
- 📖 Children may read to an adult, or an adult may ask them about what they have read for their homework. Please sign reading records when doing so. We check reading records for at least three adult signatures on **Fridays**.
- 📖 In year five and six, children are responsible for changing and managing books and reading records themselves (books others have read are left at least 72 hours before being available again at the moment).
- 📖 Pupils may choose to keep a reading book in school and another at home. Reading records should go home and be in school each day though.
- 📖 School library books and other books from the classroom are available for pupils to check out one at a time. We only ask that we can see books on at least a weekly basis.

## Maths (Online via Mathletics)

- 🎮 Mathletics is the website (also available as an app) that we use for maths homework.
- 🎮 Log in details are stuck in the front of children's reading records.
- 🎮 Up to two homework tasks are set on **Fridays** and due in by the following **Friday**.
- 🎮 There is also lots of extra maths practise for children on Mathletics, including fun games. Redwood pupils should be attempting higher levels of these for the best impact.

## Spellings (Online via Readiwriter)

- ABC We have a weekly spelling focus set on a Friday. Spellings will be tested on **Fridays**.
- ABC Spellings should be practised at home. There are set tasks to completed on *Readiwriter*, a new spelling platform/app (similar to Mathletics) which includes lots of fun spelling games.
- ABC More information about Readiwriter will be sent separately, and children will be shown how to use it in school.
- ABC Log in details for Readiwriter are *the same as Mathletics*, and pupils can switch between the two platforms easily when logged in.

## Times Tables

- ✂ We test children's knowledge with our Space Mission Maths scheme regularly. It is part of children's homework to be practising times tables.
- ✂ Rapid recall of times tables facts is imperative to help children achieve their full potential in mathematics, especially so in year five and six.
- ✂ The '*Multiverse*' on Mathletics and [timestables.me.uk](https://www.timestables.me.uk) are great ways of practising online.

*If pupils are struggling to access online homework for any reason, please let us know.  
We can arrange alternative provision if necessary.*