



# Higham Primary School

Grow, Learn, Believe, Achieve

## Squirrels Class Newsletter Term 1 2024

Welcome to Term 1; we hope you had a fantastic summer break. We are really excited to be back at school for the Autumn Term and have a busy few weeks ahead of us! We have a special request to make our book corner special – could we have a picture of your child reading please! It can be anywhere they choose anywhere in bed, in the garden, the car or even in a tent! Wherever they enjoy a good read we would love a photo of them so we can encourage reading is pleasurable and finding a good spot is essential!



### Topic

During this theme, will take a journey around the United Kingdom, exploring its geographical features. The children will name and find the countries, capital cities and major cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas. The children will develop their use of map skills from key stage one, so that they have the opportunity to use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features. As part of their learning the children will go on to investigate their local town of Gravesend learning about how to conduct fieldwork to observe and record the human and physical features.



### Science

Our We will be focussing about the importance of nutrition and be introduced to the main body parts associated with the skeleton and muscles, finding out how different parts of the body have special functions.

For their home learning we would love them to create something related to our science focus. This could be keeping a food diary (not for the whole term!), creating a meal and then making a poster to tell us about what food was included and what nutrition was in that meal or the children could create a menu to demonstrate their learning trying to create a range of food choices to support their nutrition as well as their favourite foods!

### Art

This term, we will experiment with different effects and textures when applying colour in different ways to create our own version of the cave paintings found at Lascaux. Throughout this theme, we will develop our understanding of the colour wheel and colour mixing. We will experiment with different tones and use watercolour.

### Maths

All children need to be practising their timetables (using TT Rockstars 3 x a week (10 minutes each time) including Studio levels for speed tests) and their number bonds (using Numbots – if required). Login details can be found in the front of their reading record books.



### Spellings

Spelling lists for the statutory words for year 3 and 4 will be available on the class page. As well as the 100 High Frequency words for children whom wish to become confident with these first. Year 1 and 2 spellings are also available upon request. Children will have a copy of these spellings in their trays, in class, in order to check their spellings in their own work, independently.

We will be using a new scheme 'Spelling Shed' the children have login details can be found in the front of their reading records. They will also bring a sheet home with them to support their learning of different spelling patterns. **Spelling tests will take place on a Monday.**



## PE

PE will take place on **Tuesday** afternoons. This term, our topic is 'Fundamental skills'. This will cover: developing balance, technique for running at different speeds, control and skill at jumping, hopping and landing as well as using a skipping rope.

The wearing of earrings of any kind is not permitted for PE, including the use of earring tape. Please ensure all jewellery and earrings are removed before coming to school on PE days. We cannot take responsibility for the removal or storage of earrings. If your child is to have their ears pierced, please do this at the start of the summer break to avoid your child missing PE. Any child unable to do PE will be expected to complete written work within the lesson time based on what is being taught in that lesson.

## Reading

The children will all take part in a Star Reading Assessment during the first week of term and will be given their new reading levels. Please encourage your children to read with you, daily, or ask them comprehension questions about what they have read in their bedrooms etc. Please also remember to sign to say that they have read their books and to which page. When they have finished a book, they can then take an Accelerated Reader test to check their understanding of the text – both house points and merits are up for grabs, each time they score 100% on a test.

Please use the following link to sign up for email notifications for Home Connect. You will then receive an email each time your child completes a quiz in school. You will also be able to find out how they are doing with their termly reading targets.

<https://ukhosted27.renlearn.co.uk/6706259/HomeConnect>

We have daily accelerated reading sessions in class, so it's vital that your child remembers to bring their book and reading record in to school EVERY day, along with their water bottle (named) and their morning snack in tub /pot which is clearly labelled with their name to help avoid confusion if they lose it at any time on the playground. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Here's hoping for a fantastic first term of this year!



Best wishes,

Mrs Graham, Mrs Howe and Mrs Sackley