



Autumn Term 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families have all had a wonderful summer holiday and are looking forward to the autumn term ahead. It is already shaping up to be a busy one so it will soon feel like we've never been away I'm sure!

Curriculum

Hummingbirds' main theme between now and Christmas will be based around the topic of the 'Romans'. We will look in depth at this period in time historically, but will also link it to other areas of the curriculum such as Art, Music and English. An outline of what we will be covering in each subject area is displayed in the table below:

Subject	Areas of Learning
English	Persuasive writing – Italian holiday brochures Narrative (Traditional Tale) - Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp Poetry – Still I Rise Balanced Argument – Should we feed animals at National Parks?
Maths	Place value Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division Measurement: length and perimeter
Science	Properties and changes of materials
History	Romans/Iceni
Geography	Counties and cities in the UK
Computing	Being cyber smart/safe Understanding search engines
Art/DT	Roman pottery and mosaics Roy Lichtenstein artist study and portraits
German	Numbers to 20 Days and months Colours First conversations
RE	What do Muslims believe about God?
PSHE	Nutrition and dental health Human rights

PE

PE lessons will be on Wednesday and Friday afternoons this term. Hummingbirds Class are going to be going swimming on a Wednesday and a separate swimming letter will be sent home very soon. Swimming will commence on Wednesday 15th September. On a Friday, the children can continue coming into school wearing their PE kits in the morning. It is extremely important that children have the correct school PE kit as well as a pair of trainers so that they can participate in these lessons fully and safely. Also, a reminder here that long hair should be tied back and earrings should be covered for these lessons.

Reading

You should encourage your child to read daily at home and they should have a reading diary in which to record their progress. Either you or your child must record a comment in these at least three times a week. There is a list of questions stuck in the back of their diaries to assist them in structuring their ideas and developing a range of different reading skills. Please ensure that they are answering a range of different questions and not just repeating the same ones – use the tick boxes to help you.

Once your child becomes a Free Reader, please help them to select books that are appropriately challenging for them in terms of both vocabulary and themes.

The children should hand their diaries in once a week on a **Thursday morning**. Mrs Lange will check their diaries and reading comments. Any children who forget to hand in their diaries or who haven't completed their comments will have until Friday to rectify this or they will be asked to complete some reading/comments during Friday morning break.

Class Trips

We are hoping to organise a class trip for a Roman Day at Norwich Castle later in the term. A letter will be sent out with further information nearer the time.

Homework

The children in Hummingbirds will be reminded of their logins so that they can access Maths Shed at home and, as above, are expected to read daily.

Some students may also be asked to practice their handwriting or times tables/division facts at home to help to improve these areas.

The school is going to be prioritising a new approach to the teaching of spelling and so the learning of weekly spelling lists is no longer relevant. However, spelling tasks linked to the patterns being taught may be helpful and the children will be informed about these on a two-weekly basis.

Stationery and Pencil Cases

The children are permitted to bring **one medium-sized pencil case** into school with them which they can keep on their table. Items that this could contain are: coloured pencils, felt tips, pencil, ruler, rubber, blue biro, scissors, glue stick and a highlighter. They **do not need** gel pens, a calculator, a spell checker, scented pens or a bendy ruler. I'm sure you'll agree that one of each of the above items is also sufficient!

Bags and Wellies

The children can bring in a bag, which must be a suitable size for hanging on their pegs, and a separate, named bag for their wellies (both of which must be named) also to be kept on their pegs. They also **MUST** have a named water bottle in school each day which they can keep hold of to maintain their hydration levels.

If you have any questions at all about these or any other matters, please email me on hvyse@pulham.norfolk.sch.uk. If you would prefer to speak in person, then please arrange a meeting with me via the school office. If you have a problem that your child could resolve themselves, please do encourage them to come and speak to myself, Mrs Lange or Mrs Brown directly; we are very much trying to embolden them to develop their own independence and resolution skills in Years 4 and 5.

I am very much looking forward to a great term ahead!

Kind regards,

Helen Vyse
Hummingbirds Class Teacher