**THE ELEPHANT TRIBE 2019 - 2020**

**Introductions**

**Members of the Elephant Tribe**

Noah Poppy M Ella

Phoebe Olive Evie

Pippa Sienna Elizabeth

Mylo Kai Lexi

Cara Amy William

Marley Edward Lily

Eve Ethan Olivia

Poppy E Missy Amelia

Isla Xavi Bobby

Theo Thomas

**The staff who will be working with your children this year are:**

**Mrs Fletcher** – Class Teacher

**Mrs Woolley**- Assistant Teacher. Mrs Woolley will work with us every day. She will work with groups of children as well as with individual children depending on the activities we are doing and individual needs.

Wednesday – **Miss Forrest** for computing, **Mrs Bolton** for music and **Mrs Robinson** for French

Thursday – **Mrs Walsh** for Art and **Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Woolley** for reading based activities .

**Guidied Reading** is at half past nine on Monday, Thursday and Friday morning and the groups will be taken by myself , Mrs Woolley, Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Thomson.

The children will need their reading books and their blue reading records every Monday.

**A Typical Day in The Elephant Classroom**

8.50 am registration. During this time the children have a morning task to complete in their Morning Books this will be a spelling based activity.

8.55 to 9.30 am Spelling lesson

9.30 to 10.00 am Guided Reading

10.00 to 10.15 am PLAYTIME at this time children eat their toast or their healthy snack from home. They are also encouraged to pay a visit to the toilet at this time.

10.15 to 10.20- Drink time when the children drink their milk or their water from home.

10.20 to 11.00 Maths lesson which will start with a fluency activity.

11.00 to 11.50 English lesson

11.50 to 12.00 Handwriting

12.00 wash hands ready for lunch

12.05 to 1.00 Lunch time

1.00 pm to 2.05 pm Afternoon session begins with everyone reading for pleasure. Most afternoons will include a variety of subjects such as topic work, Science, RE and Jigsaw.

2.05 to 2.15 pm PLAYTIME this is when fruit will be eaten

2.15 to 2.50 pm afternoon session continues

2.50 to 3.10 pm ASSEMBLY

3.15 pm HOMETIME children will leave through the classroom door that leads onto the KS2 playground. Children going to After School Club or to any other clubs will be sent to the respective place in school. If there is a change to whoever will be collecting your child at the end of the day please could you let myself, Mrs Woolley or Mrs Masterson know.

As you can see a school day is very busy! Your children will be working very hard in Year 2. It is an important year for them and they will be formally assessed throughout the year in readiness for reporting their end of Key Stage data next May. Having said that we will still be having lots of fun as we learn.

**How The Children Are Grouped and Taught**

Through our tracking systems each individual child’s level of attainment and targets are known to me. When I am planning I look at the individual needs of the children and ensure that the tasks I set are appropriate to every member of the tribe. In order to develop a growth mindset the children will not be grouped for English and Maths according to their level of attainment. As a class the children will all cover the same theme but the work will be planned and set to meet group and individual needs in order to allow all of the children to make progress.

Lessons are mostly introduced on a whole class basis. The children are then set work to do independently or they will work with myself or Mrs Woolley

**Snacks and Drinks**

Snacks should be healthy, either fruit or vegetables. No nuts please.

Toast is available at a cost of 20p a slice and is paid for on a half termly basis to the Office.

The children are encouraged to bring a drink with them for throughout the day. This drink should be water and should be in a water bottle with a sports cap. The drinks will be left on the top tray of the trolley inside the classroom for easy access.

**Free school meals and Pupil Premium Payments**

As you know, all children who are in reception, year 1 or year 2 in a state-funded school have been offered a free healthy school lunch.

It is important that if you meet the governments criteria for Free school meals that you still register as it can raise money for our school, to fund valuable support such as extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

This additional money ( over £1000) is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the welfare benefits listed in the form ( available at the Office) . It is therefore important to sign up for free school meals, even if your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2, so that your child’s school receives as much funding as possible.

Your child will not notice any difference to the meals they receive and this status is not public knowledge.

**Reading Books**

Reading books will be changed on Monday afternoon. Please hear your child read every day and ask them questions about the books they have chosen. Reading is much more than just being able to say words out loud. Children must be able to retell stories, predict what might happen, talk about the actions and feelings of characters and to understand why authors use certain words and punctuation. I know as a working parent that it can be hard to find the time to do things like this but regular reading at home really does have a positive impact on children’s attainment in reading and writing. There is a parents’ guide to reading on the website written by staff and parents here at Longton.

Please remember to make comments in the blue reading record book .

**Homework**

Homework will sent home on Thursday and **must** be handed in the following Tuesday.

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| Y2 | Read daily for 20 minutes  One week maths homework next week English | Number bonds  Times tables | Termly project related to their topic. | Holiday Passport |

**P.E**

P.E is on Tuesday morning and on Friday Afternoon

**What Can The Children Bring To School**

Other than their blue book bags, reading books, homework , water bottles and healthy snacks the children do not need to bring anything else. Please could you make sure that all toys are left at home. They are not allowed in class and if the children do have them they will be taken from them and returned at hometime.

**SATs**

Throughout the year the children will continue to follow the National Curriculum in preparation for the Statutory Assessment Tests they will do in May 2020. Parents find the thought of SATs worrying and I would like to reassure you that we strive to make it as painless as we can for everyone. You can support your child by hearing them read and completing all homework tasks.

There will be a meeting in the Spring Term to run through SATs in greater detail. This meeting will be offered at two different times to hopefully give everybody who wants to the chance to attend.

**Blog and Twitter**

The class blog will be updated regularly, and we will sometimes Tweet what we are up to.

**Finally!**

The most important thing is of course that we have happy children. I want the class to have fun in their learning and for every single child to be proud of who they are and of their achievements.

Education is a team game and it is important that we all work together in the best interests of the children. If you have anything that you want to have a chat about please feel free to make an appointment through the office or catch me at the end of the day.

Here’s to a great year!