

Miss A Lavelle
Head Teacher BEd (Hons) NPQH

Miss K Maryon BEd (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Head teacher



The Street
Mereworth
Maidstone
Kent
ME18 5ND

Tel: (01622) 812569

Mereworth Community Primary School
"Lasting learning experiences for life"

Email: office@mereworth.kent.sch.uk
www.mereworth.kent.sch.uk

Monday 7th September 2020

Year 1 Term 1 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! I hope you had a wonderful summer break and are ready for the next term ahead.

Our Term 1 Topic Web provides information about our theme "Dinosaur Discovery" and accompanies this letter.

This is always a busy first term for us as the children settle into their new learning environment and get used to the new routines. This year has been particularly unusual and we have not been able to put into place all of the lovely transition sessions we normally would. During Term 6, I was able to visit both groups within their bubbles and some of the children have been communicating with us by writing us letters with their questions. We know that the children will settle really quickly, but if you do have any concerns about their transition, please do let me know so that we can work together to support them.

Our home learning this term:

- Each week, the children will be expected to complete either a maths task using Mathletics or an English activity. Homework will be set on a Friday, to be completed and returned to class by the following **Wednesday**.
- Please continue to read with your child at least 5 x per week, and write in their reading record. Children earn house points for each time they read at home!
- Practise their Maths Passport task for weekly test on a Monday
- Spellings practice for weekly test on a Thursday

Communication with staff at the school:

Parents will not be able to enter the school building so if you have any information that you would like myself or another member of staff to know, please email this to the school office: office@mereworth.sch.uk or the Year 1 class teacher email address: class1@mereworth.kent.sch.uk. Please note that this email will be operational from Tuesday 1st September and will only be accessed between **8am–4pm each school day**.

If you have an important 'on the day' message, please either pass it to Miss Lavelle or Mrs Turnbull at the school gates each morning, or call the school office to leave a message for the relevant member of staff.

Maths:

We will be assessing where your child is for their Maths Passports on their return to school so that we can ensure they are on the correct passport and test. This may result in some children going back over tasks they have previously completed, to recap them, to make sure they are able to recall fluently and use the skills in a variety of ways. We often find that the children know the skills to pass the test but they are not able to apply them and it is vital, therefore, to recap before moving them on. Be assured that we will endeavour to support your child to ensure that they make progress through their maths passport.

The first Maths Passport test will be on Monday 14th September and your child will be given their target within their yellow Maths Passport book during this week (Week 2). The first spelling test will be Thursday 17th September. Your child will be given 12 weeks of spellings to learn and will need to learn the first week of spellings for this test.

Reading:

This week we will be reading with each of your children to ensure that your child has an appropriate and well-matched reading book. We will be checking that children are able to read the text fluently and answer a variety of questions based on the text. In Year R, the focus was primarily on the phonics books, however, this year the children will begin to move through the alternative books on the reading schemes in addition to a matched phonics book.



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Children will be provided with four books over the course of the week. All children will receive a new phonics book on a Friday. Your child will then have their phonics book changed on one other day of the week once they have read to an adult in class. Phonics books will be matched based on the phonics we have completed in class and your child's phonics ability.

Reading scheme books are changed by the children on a Tuesday and a Thursday. The reading scheme books help to expose the children to more vocabulary. Please read both books at home and let us know how your child is getting on with their reading. If we feel your child is ready for the next reading scheme level, we will carry out a reading assessment with them. This assessment tests a number of reading skills including being able to retell the story they have read, decoding ability and answering comprehension questions.

Long Hair:

If your child's hair is below shoulder length, please ensure that it is tied back every day. Loose long hair is distracting and also more susceptible to head lice.

P.E.

Please ensure that full PE kit is in school every day and that all items are named. If your child cannot participate in PE, please advise us of the reason in writing by email. Please note that all PE lessons will be outdoors in Term 1.

PE Kit List:

School green P.E. shorts
House t-shirt
Tracksuit top and bottoms (plain navy, black or dark green, with no logo)
Spare socks (tights cannot be worn for P.E.)
Trainers for outdoor PE

I am really looking forward to working with you and your child this year and know we will have a fantastic year in Year 1.

If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me using the class email or make an appointment to have a telephone conversation after school.

Miss K Watts
Year 1 Class Teacher

