



# SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWSLETTER

## MRS PIDGEON

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Happy New Year to you all. There are a few updates that we thought you would like to know before the next newsletter:-

#### New Curriculum and Reading

In September 2014 a new national curriculum becomes statutory and we have been looking at our existing curriculum to see where we need to develop it.

It has become apparent that whilst phonics remains an important part of teaching early reading there is a significant emphasis on breadth of reading in the new curriculum and comprehension within this breadth. The emphasis on reading for enjoyment is also strong but I believe most of our children love reading already.

*'Pupils should be taught to read fluently, understand extended prose (both fiction and non-fiction) and be encouraged to read for pleasure. Schools should do everything to promote wider reading.'*

*Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know.*

*Comprehension skills develop through pupils' experience of high-quality discussion with the teacher, as well as from reading and discussing a range of stories, poems and non-fiction. All pupils must be encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. Reading widely and often, increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a treasure-house of wonder and joy for curious young minds.'*

In order to respond to this we are in the process of extending the reading material available to the children. We will be asking the children to read very widely and extensively at each stage of their development. In Year 5 and 6, pupils who are skilled, confident and fluent readers, will read for pleasure selecting books for interest and they will be in control of the level of challenge their "home" reading material poses. The teachers will continue to teach, challenge and extend pupil comprehension and decoding skills in the classroom.

#### Homework resources

##### **KS1 and 2**

If you would like a card school line guide to put under plain paper when practising your handwriting or doing writing on plain paper we have had some printed. They cost 20p each.

##### **KS2**

A line guide and school handwriting pen is available for 50p.

Should you require anything please put the correct change in a named envelope itemising what you require and leave in the school office. Thank you.

#### Creative Context

At the end of last term we carried out a pupil survey to find out which activities were the most enjoyable and what kind of things the children wanted to do this term. We have decided to have more opportunities for the most popular activities and only spend two weeks on one activity to enable the children to do more activities before the end of the Summer Term. We have new groups this term, named as fruits! The activities are: positive play, rock/pop choir, cooking, dance, powder paint, fitness/boot camp, first aid, drama, origami, ocarina, forest schools and a large art project.