**Saturn Class Spring Term 2022 – Key Information**

Welcome to a new year in Saturn class! We have lots of exciting things to think about! It may feel like a big change initially, for the children to get used to me – Mrs Metcalfe - instead of Miss Jones and I understand that the children (and yourselves) will take a little time to adjust to my way of working. I would like to reassure you that Miss Jones, Mrs Smith and I have worked hard together, to plan a seamless handover and an exciting two terms ahead, packed to the brim with fun and learning. I have many years teaching experience and have held a range of roles in my career from quite junior roles to quite senior ones, depending on my family needs, career and personal commitments. I am very excited to undertake the role of teaching your wonderful children for these next two terms. Saturn will continue to be supported by Mrs Hamer and Mrs G Massey and we also have the pleasure of introducing a new Mrs L Massey, although she will be very familiar from running All Stars. Miss Jones will continue bringing her musical expertise to the music lessons and we will begin swimming this term. (Our first session is on Thursday 13th January.)

I really appreciate the effort you all put into supporting your children in their lives as they grow and learn. This letter provides lots of important information about what your child will need each day, what their homework expectations are, important dates for the term, and our Spring topics. Should you have *any* questions, please communicate them via your child’s diary, ask on the door at home-time, or email me: [nmetcalfe@wincle.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:nmetcalfe@wincle.cheshire.sch.uk)   
No question is too big or small!

**Mental health and wellbeing**

After our successful introduction to *MyHappyMind* last year, we will continue using this as part of our approach to supporting pupils’ mental health and wellbeing. The children were great at ‘strength spotting’ in themselves and others and we will continue using our ‘Happy Breathing’ techniques in school. Please continue to support your child by asking questions about *MyHappyMind* and accessing the website from home.

These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The resources allow children to continue to practise some of the habits they have developed at school, such as happy breathing, for you to learn more about what they are learning in the program. Also included are activities for you to do together at home, to complement the in-school lessons. To access these materials, just go to: <https://myhappymind.org/cheshire-parent-resources> and you’ll be guided through the process. We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child in getting the best out of the curriculum. If you have any questions about the curriculum, please contact your class teacher. If you have any technical questions about accessing the resources, please contact [hello@myHappymind.org](mailto:hello@myHappymind.org)

**Dojos**

From January, I am going to introduce a ‘dojo’ reward system. I have watched Jupiter use it to good effect and we have already shared dojo envelopes ready to be filled with dojos each day. Dojos can be awarded any time we are impressed. It could be for: good manners, consideration of others, being organised, effort, achievement, helpfulness… the list is endless. Each week we will have a dojo champion and at the end of term, your child will be able to ‘spend’ their dojos at the dojo shop.

**Spring Term Topics:**

English

In English, we are continuing to use *The Write Stuff* approach to teaching writing. This involves heavily modelling how to construct different sentences for effect, and the children are really enjoying using the writing rainbow to support their writing. We are going to start the term with story writing, recounting a picture book about a flood. Then we will work on non-fiction, writing newspaper articles and tackling the daunting topic of plastic in our oceans. We will bring out themes of hope and re-building to link in with RE and science.

We will continue using our new approach to teach spelling. Rather than teaching spelling rules and common exception words, we will continue to employ a phonics-based strategy, having a “sound of the week”. The children will continue with self-selecting 5 words containing our focus sound that they need to practice. Please check that they are practicing these new words at home each week and also finding as many new words to add to their grids as possible. More words equal more dojos!

Science

In science, our topic is *Materials*. We will be learning about solids, liquids and gases and how states change and we will conduct practical experiments to investigate this. We will relate our science to what we already know about the water cycle and we will be considering the motto ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ and its implications on the choices we have.

History

This term, we will be getting to know our locality in more depth with a local history study. More info........(I’m still planning this)........................ To support this learning, we will be visiting Macclesfield Silk Museum.......Charles Tunnicliffe.

Maths

In maths, we will be developing our times tables knowledge and speedy recall, introducing area, developing our understanding of fractions and time.

MENTION TT ROCKSTARS – THEY NEED TO BE ACCESSING IT AT HOME

Geography

In geography, we will be consolidating our knowledge of the seven continents and five oceans and naming and locating the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas on a globe. We will be developing our knowledge of weather and climate and learning about different climate zones as well as looking into climate change and understanding more about this important topic.

RE

This half-term, our RE topic is Easter*.* Through a series of investigations, we will be exploring the question “How can Christians show integrity through forgiveness?” In half-term two our question is.... Bible stories....

SS – info from the diocese? I will send the long-term plan Got this – will add more…

Computing

We will be beginning the year by developing our coding skills, reading, understanding and writing increasingly complex codes. Pupils are welcome to continue this learning at home by accessing the coding games on PurpleMash.

Art/DT

In Art, we will take inspiration from our trip to the Silk Museum to produce some textile work and develop our sewing skills.

Music

In music, we are going to be applying our musical knowledge and skills to lessons focussing on how to play the recorder. Instrumental lessons are only effective if they are supported by regular practice. As such, children are likely to enjoy the lesson more if they practice for 5 minutes per day, at home. Changing… will speak to Emma

Emma is going to teach your music – speak to her

French

In French, we will be following a new curriculum developed by Cave languages, working on not only our French speech, but our ability to read and write the words that we can say. Have met with Hayley – will update this…..

PE

This half-term, we will be

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| Swimming  Gymnastics |
| Orienteering  Dodgeball |

developing our football skills in our PAS lessons and our netball skills with Miss Jones. After half-term, we will move on to dance and hockey.

PSHE

This year, our PSHE lessons will be taught by Mrs Massey. We will be developing our understanding of ourselves and each other by considering similarities and differences and identifying what makes us unique and special. (Jan – Staying Safe and Managing Risk)

Residential Trips

Our bi-annual trip to Edale is at the end of the summer term, when we will be having two nights away with a packed, fun-filled agenda, more about that in the summer term. In preparation for this we will have a single overnight stay closer to home at Back Dane, walking out on Thursday 28th April and staying overnight. List activites.....PAS Sports, Ninja Squirrels, archery, orienteering......

**Things to remember:**

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| **Monday** | New spellings written in diary.  PE kit needed | Things to bring *every day:*  Homework diary  Reading book  Water bottle  Waterproof coat  Glasses (if worn). |
| **Tuesday** | English and maths homework due and set for another week (can be handed in any day before today). |
| **Wednesday** |  |
| **Thursday** | PE kit needed. |
| **Friday** | Recorder needed. |

**Weekly Homework:**

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| **Reading** | * Like all skills, when it comes to reading, practice makes perfect. Children need to read **to an adult** at least 4 times a week, in addition to their daily reading to adults in school. Children who read to an adult less often than this are likely to fall behind. * Children should read their school reading book, but they are encouraged to read books from home too. * Shared reading with an adult should be used to check that the child understands what is going on in the text, understands the meaning of all words on the page, and can read fluently with expression. |
| **Spelling** | * Children will have a new focus sound each week, which will be glued in their diaries on Monday. As they read their reading book, they should copy any words containing the sound into the table in their diaries. * Each child will self-select 5 words to practice over the week. Like last year, they should practice these spellings at home, butthere will be **no formal spelling tests** in school, because every child will have different spellings appropriate to their individual needs. |
| **English** | * Each child will be given a CPG book and will be asked to complete the allocated pages each week. Homework will be set on **Wednesdays** and can be handed in anytime between then and the following Wednesday. * Please do not complete any more than the allocated pages, as these books should last the year! |
| **Maths** | * Maths homework will also be given on **Wednesdays** and can be handed in anytime between then and the following Wednesday. * Maths homework is the same as last year: the children will be given a new skill to practice each half-term. As these are called *key instant recall facts,* in most cases, children should be able to answer 20 questions in 60 seconds by the end of the half-term. * The maths homework is separated into 3 sections. The children should complete 1 section per day, completing the homework over **3 separate days.** This is because practice is always more effective when it is completed little and often, rather than all in one go. * It is worth regularly looking back over previous KIRF to ensure that past learning is not lost. |

**Year 4 times table check**

Pupils in year 4 must take a statutory times tables check in June 2022. Government guidance says:

*“The MTC is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times tables questions. Your child will answer 3 practice questions before moving on to the official check and will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.”*

The children will be practising their 2 to 12 times tables in school on a daily basis. They are more likely to pass the check if this learning is supplemented by further practice at home.

Further information about the check will be shared in the spring term. If you have any questions before then, please use your child’s diary or email me. No question is too daft!

**Times Table Rockstars:**

Next Monday, all pupils in school will be given a login and account for Times Table Rockstars, an online platform for developing times table proficiency. Your child’s login details will be placed in their homework diaries. Please support them to practice at home, alongside their practice in school.

**Dates for the diary:**

*Friday 17th September –* Tudor day. Children should come to school in Tudor costume.

*Friday 15th October –* Shakespeare day. Children should come to school in normal uniform.

*Thursday 21st October –* Visit to Macclesfield Forest. Children should be dropped off/collected from the forest. Please see newsletter for further details.

*Thursday 4th November –* Visit to Ford Green Hall. Children should come to school in normal uniform.

*Tuesday 16th November –* visit to Liverpool.

**Update**

**Our timetable for September:**

It may be useful to place this timetable somewhere where your child can refer to it each morning. Please not that timetables do sometimes have to change to accommodate events throughout the school week.