

# Crowmoor Primary School



## *Welcome to Hazel and Sycamore!*

At Crowmoor, we believe that children are always most successful when they know that parents and teachers are working together in partnership for their interest.

These are some of the things you can do to promote independence and confidence:

- Give your child responsibility, however small, and expect him or her to accept this responsibility. For example, packing their own school bag or lunch box; giving you letters/messages from school.
- Getting homework done is your child's responsibility, with your help and support.
- Help your child to become a better time manager, for example, by **expecting** them to carry out your instructions **immediately** and to complete tasks asked of them. This could include laying the table, feeding pets, watering plants, tidying up.
- Help your child to look after their own things at home, which will help them with their personal organisation at school.
- Give plenty of praise - sometimes small achievements have taken a lot of effort
- Let your child do as much as possible for themselves, even if it is painful to watch and frustrating to wait for! They do get quicker.

We expect Key Stage 2 children to enter and leave the school building independently, dealing with all of their belongings personally, rather than relying on a parent to help them. Please help them to do this by bringing them to the playground and then moving away so that they can settle quickly. However, if you ever need to talk to the teacher, please feel free to contact us to do so. Afternoons are usually better than mornings, but obviously there are times when the matter is urgent or can only be dealt with that morning.

The Key Stage 2 children usually have Core curriculum; guided reading, literacy and maths during the morning sessions. They have lunch from 12 o'clock until 1 o'clock, they return to class for the afternoon sessions. During the morning Key Stage 2 have a 15 minute break but not during the afternoons. Often there is a subject break in the afternoons as children change from one area of learning to another.

## How to help your child:

- Encourage your child but please do not put them under pressure. Each child is an individual and all have different strengths and areas for development. We find that pressure on children often has the opposite effect than that desired.
- Make sure they get enough sleep.
- Make sure they eat breakfast and have a good drink in the morning.
- Make sure they drink enough water and ensure they bring a refillable water bottle to school **every** day, as well as their drink for lunch.
- Encourage them to ask the teacher if they are unsure about anything.
- Allow them the freedom to develop their independence, with a responsible attitude.

## Learning Objectives and Success Criteria:

Your child may talk about learning objectives (L.Os) and success criteria. In class, we explain the learning objectives for the lesson in child-speak. This is our main focus for teaching and marking that piece of work. In all of their learning, children will also be encouraged to consider their own personal and school targets. Children will be given personalised targets for English and Maths.

## Literacy

In Key Stage 2 we provide a daily Literacy lesson of about one hour. Where appropriate, the content will relate to the topic area being covered with children focusing on a text genre for a period of time. We use drama or role-play and 'Talk for Writing' to encourage children to formulate and develop their ideas before expecting them to write them down. We will also look at aspects of grammar, punctuation and spelling; this will form the basis of regular homework.

## Reading

Reading is taught through shared (whole class), guided (small group) and independent and individual reading. We will focus on the following areas: comprehension, punctuation, expression and intonation depending on the text chosen. Of course they are also being taught to read in many other activities. We hold fortnightly parent reading sessions where parents are encouraged to come into school and read with their child.

The children are encouraged to change their book regularly and they have regular access to the library and know how to locate and exchange books. The children are expected to independently record their progress in their reading diaries. We follow an online programme called Accelerated Reader (please see the Literacy webpage for further details).

### Hints for making reading together an enjoyable experience:

- Most importantly, encourage your child to concentrate on the **meaning** of what they are reading and to make a sensible guess at an unknown word.
- Choose a time when you can be **relaxed** and give your **undivided attention**.
- **Praise** what your child can do - build confidence at every opportunity.
- Make it **enjoyable** for both of you - enjoy the book, it is not just about getting the word right. Even if you think the text is too easy, talk about the story line or characters or find words with letter patterns in them.
- Use **funny voices** to add interest and expression, where appropriate.
- Choose a time in the day when your child is receptive.
- Remember, this does not have to be reading your child's reading book - they could read newspapers, magazines, recipe books, letters, joke books, invitations, instructions for games and models, reading related to computer games, reference books, library books ...
- If your child is a confident, fluent reader they still need to read aloud to help them **develop expression** and **use punctuation** correctly. They will benefit from talking about the book - forming opinions, summarising, guessing what might happen next. They should review stories, read and discuss possible changes the author could have made, discuss character interaction and changes in emotions during the story.
- Refer to the text wherever possible, picking out key words/parts. They also need to be encouraged to read different kinds of texts.

### Lower Key Stage 2 Literacy Objectives

Children learn to:

**Speak and listen for a wide range of purposes in different contexts**

#### 1. Speaking

- tell a story using notes designed to cue techniques, such as repetition, recap and humour
- present a spoken argument, sequencing points logically, defending views with evidence and making use of persuasive language
- use and explore different question types

#### 2. Listening and Responding

- identify different question types and evaluate impact on audience
- identify some aspects of talk which vary between formal and informal occasions
- analyse the use of persuasive language

#### 3. Group discussion and interaction

- plan and manage a group task over time using different levels of planning
- understand different ways to take the lead and support others in groups
- understand the process of decision making

#### 4. Drama

- reflect on how working in role helps to explore complex issues
- perform a scripted scene making use of dramatic conventions
- use and recognise the impact of theatrical effects in drama

**Read a wide range of texts on screen and on paper**

#### 5. Word reading skills and strategies

- use knowledge of words, roots, derivations and spelling patterns to read unknown words

#### 6. Understanding and interpreting texts

- make notes on and use evidence from across a text to explain events or ideas
- infer writers' perspectives from what is written and from what is implied
- compare different types of narrative and information texts and identify how they are structured
- explore how writers use language for comic and dramatic effects

#### 7. Engaging with and responding to texts

- reflect on reading habits and preferences and plan personal reading goals
- compare the usefulness of techniques such as visualisation, prediction, empathy in exploring the meaning of texts
- compare how a common theme is presented in poetry, prose and other media

**Write a wide range of texts on paper and on screen**

#### 8. Creating and shaping texts

- reflect independently and critically on own writing and edit and improve it
- experiment with different narrative forms and styles to write their own stories
- adapt non-narrative forms and styles to write fiction or factual texts, including poems
- vary pace and develop viewpoint through the use of direct and reported speech, portrayal of action, selection of detail
- create multi-layered texts, including use of hyperlinks, linked web pages

## 9. Text structure and organisation

- experiment with the order of sections and paragraphs to achieve different effects
- change the order of material within a paragraph, moving the topic sentence

## 10. Sentence structure and punctuation

- adapt sentence construction to different text types, purposes and readers
- punctuate sentences accurately, including use of inverted commas and apostrophes

## 11. Word structure and spelling

- Your child's spellings will be age specific and differentiated to their ability. The spellings given will usually incorporate a specific rule.

## 12. Presentation

- adapt handwriting to specific purposes, e.g. printing, use of italics
- use a range of ICT programmes to present texts

## Spelling

Good spelling is a fundamental part of a child's literacy development. The focus for spellings each week will normally be around high frequency words, a spelling pattern or may be related to a particular topic. We accept that there will be mistakes in tests but we will be looking for consistency and improvement. We encourage the children to identify misspelt words, using a dictionary, and correct them within their own writing.

### *Tips on how to learn weekly spellings:*

We suggest children learn their spellings using the '**Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check**' method. This encourages your child to 'see' and 'hear' the word, and to see for him/herself if s/he spelt it right.

- Look at a spelling word. Which parts of the word do I know already?
- Say the spelling word
- Cover the spelling word.
- Visualize the covered word.
- Write the word from memory.
- Check what has been written with the uncovered word and identify the error if there is one.

During their Literacy lessons, children are given the opportunity to look for patterns in the spelling of words and to invent rules and sayings to help them improve their work. They will also be encouraged to practise spellings in school.

## Spelling Rules

Help your child to learn spelling rules. There will always be exceptions, but they work most of the time:

- Most question words start 'wh';
- Add 's' for plurals except those that end in 's', 'x', 'z', 'ch' and 'sh', when you add 'es';
- Nouns ending in 'y' change to 'ies';
- When adding 'ing' or 'ed', double the last consonant after a short vowel sound (so drop becomes dropping or dropped);

### *Other ways to learn spellings:*

- Find words within the word (there's a 'hen' in 'when');
- Break the word up into smaller parts (Wed + nes + day = Wednesday);
- Break the word up into sounds (th-a-nk);
- Make up a silly sentence using the letters (big elephants cause accidents under small elephants spells 'because');
- Say the word as it is written (like 'knight');
- Find a word that rhymes with it: is the spelling the same?
- Talk about the best strategy to use.
- Quick write. Write the word as quickly as possible several times.

## Handwriting:

In Key Stage 2 we expect all children to work towards the consistent use of cursive handwriting (in line with the agreed school format). By the end of Year 4, children should be secure at joining and be able to use joined-up writing for all of their work.

## Maths

As a school, we follow the 'White Rose Maths' approach with a focus on the 'Mastery' approach. Children are taught new concepts in line with the small steps as set out in the White Rose approach. We use a concrete, pictorial and abstract approach where the children are encouraged to use equipment to help them underpin their learning. In order to help develop the children's problem-solving strategies, we teach the children using the Badger Maths programme. This encourages children to be able to use different strategies to solve a variety of problems.

### **Children learn to:**

#### **Use and apply mathematics**

- Solve problems involving whole numbers and decimals and all four operations, choosing and using appropriate methods

- Represent a problem by identifying and recording the calculations needed to solve it; find possible solutions and confirm them in the context of the problem
- Plan and pursue an enquiry; present evidence by collecting, organising and interpreting information; suggest extensions to the enquiry
- Explore patterns, properties and relationships and propose a general statement involving numbers or shapes; identify examples for which the statement is true or false
- Explain reasoning using diagrams, graphs and text

#### **Count, compare and order numbers, and describe relationships between them**

- Count from any given number in whole number steps and decimal number steps, extending beyond zero when counting backwards; relate the numbers to their position on a number line
- Explain what each digit represents in whole numbers and numbers with up to two/three decimal places, and partition these numbers
- Use sequences to scale numbers up or down; solve problems involving proportions of quantities and measurements, e.g. decrease quantities in a recipe designed to feed a number of people
- Express a smaller whole number as a fraction of a larger one; find equivalent fractions, including equivalent improper fractions and mixed numbers; relate fractions to their decimal representations
- Secure knowledge of number facts that can be recalled quickly and used and applied appropriately
- Use knowledge of place value and addition and subtraction of three digit numbers to derive sums and differences, doubles and halves of decimals, e.g.  $6.5 \pm 2.7$ , halve 5.6, double 0.34
- Recall quickly multiplication facts up to  $12 \times 12$ , use to multiply pairs of multiples of 10 and 100 and derive quickly corresponding division facts
- Identify pairs of factors of whole numbers and find common multiples,
- Use knowledge of number facts, place value and rounding to estimate and to check calculations

#### **Calculate efficiently and accurately**

- Multiply mentally  $10 \times 10$ ; use mental methods in special cases, e.g. to subtract 1995 from 6007, to multiply two and three digit numbers by one digit
- Use the standard written methods for addition and subtraction of whole numbers and decimals with one or two places
- Use understanding of place value to multiply and divide whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100.
- Use the standard written methods for multiplication and division calculations
- Find fractions using division

#### **Position and transform shapes, recognise and use their properties to visualise and construct**

- Identify, visualise, construct and describe properties of 2D and 3D shapes
- Read and plot co-ordinates in quadrants and recognise parallel and perpendicular lines in grids and shapes
- Complete patterns with a number of lines of symmetry and draw the position of a shape after a reflection or translation
- Estimate, draw and measure acute, obtuse and reflex angles using an angle measurer or protractor to a suitable degree of accuracy

#### **Measure accurately using appropriate units, interpret and compare scales**

- Read, use and record standard metric units to estimate and measure length, mass and capacity; convert larger to smaller units using decimals to one place
- Estimate measurements of length, mass and capacity to a required degree of accuracy
- Draw and measure lines to the nearest millimetre; measure and calculate the perimeter of regular polygons; use the formula for the area of a rectangle to calculate its area
- Read timetables and time using 24-hour clock notation; use a calendar to calculate time intervals

#### **Process, present and interpret statistics to pose and answer questions**

- Describe the occurrence of familiar events using the language of chance or likelihood
- Determine the information needed to answer a set of related questions; select and organise relevant data using frequency tables; construct pictograms and bar graphs, and line graphs that represent the frequencies of events and changes over time; use ICT to present and highlight features that lead to further questions

#### **Learning Tables**

We encourage the learning of tables and expect the children to be able to give answers to random questions as well as being able to recite the table all the way through. Children will take a compulsory Multiplication Tables Check in the Summer term of Year 4.

## Other Points to Remember

### **Physical Education**

We will carry out PE on a Thursday and swimming will start on a Friday morning in the Autumn and Spring term. It is vital that they have the correct PE kit; white t-shirt, black shorts and trainers or pumps. Please ensure your child wears appropriate swimming wear i.e. swimming costumes. Please ensure that if your child has long hair then they have a band to tie their hair back. For safety, obviously jewellery **must not be worn.**

### **Homework:**

In order to get the most out of their learning at school, children need to value their homework and complete it thoroughly and on time. Research shows that the most important factor in children's educational success is the home. By sharing activities with your child each week you are participating in their education, valuing what they do at school and learning together. You do not have to be a great mathematician or linguist to help - just be a willing partner! To assist the children it would help if parents could **please provide a quiet place in which children can complete their homework.**

Every child will have an orange homework book and unless stated otherwise most activities should be completed within it. All homework will be explained prior to release and children will know when it is due in (the following Friday).

Homework will consist of the following:

**Spelling** - these should be practiced formally by using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write' check method every day but please also re-inforce these, eg in the car, spotting the word or those with similar pattern in the street etc.

**Reading** - it is vital that your child reads every day in order to practice the skills being learnt at school; this should take at least 15 minutes each day.

**Literacy/Topic:** your child will also bring home a literacy and/or topic homework activity.

**Maths:** this may include learning their tables (5 minutes a night), Mathletics and the maths challenge. Every child's Mathletics log in will be stuck in the front of their Homework book or Reading Record.

If you have any queries or concerns over the homework please see your child's class teacher and we will do our utmost to assist.

## Crowmoor Curriculum

Crowmoor Curriculum Topic Webs will continue to be provided in the termly newsletter at the beginning of each term or on the school website

This leaflet contains a huge amount of information - most of which you will only need now and again! Should you wish to discuss any of the above or have any other concerns of any kind, please feel free to speak to me.

Looking forward to a fun and fulfilling year.

*Miss Bliss and Mrs Brunyard*