



Beckley Church of England Primary School

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13th January 2020

Dear Parents

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new and exciting term here at Beckley, as your children continue through Skylarks class.

I will be in regular touch regarding what Skylarks are doing as curricular content develops but, for the time being, would like to put you in the picture about what to expect as we move through this term. As a general rule, core subjects of English and Maths will dominate morning lessons, while other subjects (including Science, Geography, History, RE, PSHE, Art and/or DT, French) feature across the afternoons. There will also be at least 2 sessions of PE each week. Mr James continues to assist us in class each day. Mrs White will continue to take sessions in Art and DT in my absence on Friday afternoons and Mr Dyer will take sessions in Science and Computing on Wednesday afternoons.

Swimming is planned for Thursdays, so please make sure that your child has a swimming costume, towel and swimming cap in school on these days. We ask that P.E. kit (other than swimming) be kept in school at all times to accommodate any changes to our timetable, and to ensure that suitable shoes and clothing are provided for both indoor and outdoor work. Please also ensure that your child has a named **water bottle** at school each day.

To clarify, **homework** will be given on **Fridays**, to be returned on (or before) the following Wednesday. It will generally follow its existing 'SPAG task mat' format and spellings. For Year 4, there will also be a greater focus on times tables in preparation for the formal times table check later in the year. Athletics and daily reading should be considered on-going.

In **English**, I will start this term with a focus on poetry and traditional tales from the past. Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar will be covered both as part of such activities and discretely. In **Maths**, I will be starting with a focus on shape and move onto measurement and statistics. The children will also have frequent opportunities to develop their problem solving and investigative skills.

Science will again include a number of investigative workshops by SGC Oxford in various aspects of the curriculum, whilst studies of Living Things and Habitats will also take place during the first part of the term, before moving to States of Matter. Our **Geography** lessons will focus on the topic of Energy and Sustainability, with specific cross-curricular links with Science and Art. Our focus in **RE** will be on building the children's deeper understanding of Christianity, including a look at differing denominations to start the term. Where appropriate, cross-curricular links will be made with our Music and Arts curricula and

with our **PSHE and Values** learning which, this term, incorporates the school's Christian value of Respect, along with Appreciation, Love, Trust and Happiness. Other **Art and DT** will reflect themes in Colour, with a focus on Food later in the term. **Computing** will continue, with training on E-Safety, followed by Coding within games.

French lessons will incorporate opportunities for weekly conversation practice and the children will also develop their reading and pronunciation of new vocabulary and writing of grammatically-accurate sentences. In **PE**, the children will enjoy learning skills in Swimming and Invasion games.

If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to catch me for a brief chat at the beginning or end of the school day, or you may arrange an appointment if there are any greater concerns. I can be available by email on lcockhill@beckleyschool.org for those parents who are unable to catch me at these times.

Many thanks for your support since my return to school and I look forward to a happy and successful term in Skylarks class.

Best wishes

Laura Cockhill

Skylarks Class teacher