



# St White's Primary School

## Challenge, Commit, Conquer and Celebrate



8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Swift Class 2017/18,

A warm welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer holiday, are well rested and ready for what is going to be a very exciting year of learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about my background. I would also like offer my support to you if you ever have any questions or queries. I will be contactable throughout the whole year and will be willing to make appointments to speak to you if issues or queries do arise.

As you may already know, my name is Mr Pritchard and I will be teaching Swift class this year. Mrs Hewitt will be teaching the class on a Monday afternoon and a Thursday morning, but for the rest of the time it will be myself.

This is my first year at St White's School, after previously teaching in Special Educational settings. I gained my teaching qualification through the 'Schools Direct' training course, which is essentially an apprenticeship. I gained my qualification whilst learning on the job, with the support of highly experienced and qualified staff.

Before I started my teacher training, I worked as a teaching assistant for a number of years, acquiring valuable experience and skills to bring with me into my teaching...I hope!

I have a Sports Development degree from the University of Portsmouth. During my degree I spent a lot of time delivering sports initiatives in Primary Schools throughout the city. This really inspired me to get into education and I have never looked back! I can sincerely say that I am extremely lucky to be able to teach and support the pupils at St White's School and I am thoroughly looking forward to what this year has in store!

To begin the year, our first topic is centred on 'World's Kitchen'. This first week of learning has been used for the pupils to not only get to know myself and for me to get to know them, but also to promote and discuss how they learn and what they need to do to be the best learner possible. As a class we have talked about the areas that we are going to learn about this term, across all strands of the curriculum. Everyone has chipped in and had their say and the scene is now set for the coming term.

This term, PE lessons will be on **Monday** and **Friday** and we also have swimming on a **Tuesday**. Children will need to ensure that they have their full PE kit/Swimming kit in school on these days. If you are not sure of the school PE kit, a poster is displayed by the classroom door or the office can provide you with a letter detailing the full kit. It's really important that your child has all the uniform for these sessions. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Homework

The school recognises how important it is to ensure that all homework set, is purposeful and achievable and that parents know what the expectations are. We also know that providing resources, where required is really important so that every child has an equal opportunity to complete activities with the same degree of success as their class mates. The homework set will support the development of 'the basics' in English and maths, including reading, spellings and number fluency in accordance with your child's age and ability. This will ensure that they have the opportunity to develop effective learning strategies. The school will provide parents and their children with guidance and support so that homework activities can be completed successfully.

Set out below, is information about your child's homework. If you have any queries at any stage, do not hesitate to come and see me.

### Reading

Nurturing a love of literature for life, is without doubt, a strategy that the school is highly passionate about. Philip Pullman said that *"after nourishment, shelter, and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world."* It is through wonderful stories that children can begin to define their world and discover their places within it. Stories not only help everyone to understand the world that we live in, but also teach us about where we came from, and help us to visualise the possibilities for the future. In a nutshell, stories are our education and they are also our escape. To this end, I would

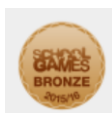
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"This is a good school."

Ofsted 2015



greatly appreciate your support in finding books that your child enjoys reading. The children will have access to the library at least once a week to change their reading book. We will also share our reading time by reading with a younger class. The school has a brand new home school communication book, with lots of great information included in it for both you and your child. It is also a means of recording homework activities, including a record of reading for both school and home reading. It would be very helpful if you could ensure that you are also recording in there when you hear your child read. It's as important to share that quality time with your child, even in Years 5 and 6. Children need to ensure their reading record is in school every day; it will then be signed weekly by both myself and you. These are very good routines to get into in readiness for when your child goes to secondary school, where all students have planners that act as a good means of communication between home and school.

As part of your child's reading comprehension activities, they will be given a 'guided reading' novel that they will read with their group in school but will also be used to complete important tasks at home. Children will record the day that this is due in in their reading record and should ensure they come and speak to me in plenty of time if there is a problem.

### **Writing & EGPS**

Each week children will be given a set of spellings to learn. Children will learn these words on a Monday morning and then we will have a test on these words on a Friday. We will also have a practice of the words as a class during the week. Copies of the spellings will be sent home and another copy will be uploaded to the class webpage for future reference. Please do help your child by practising with them.

### **Maths**

Mental maths books will be given to each child to complete in addition to their class work. I would like children to complete a page a week and then they will mark it with their peers when it comes back to school on the due date. These due dates will be recorded in their home school books, please ensure that it is completed in pencil. If there are any questions that your child isn't sure about then please ask them to circle them and we will go through them in class. If you would like support with any of the methods your child is taught so that you can support them with their homework then do not hesitate to come and see me.

Knowing their multiplication tables will be vitally important to assist your child with the maths that we complete this year. Children will continue to complete the 99 club weekly to test their multiplication knowledge but this will also require them to learn them both in school and with your support at home. Please test them at any opportunity – especially if they are after a treat!

### **Curriculum Subjects**

To support the work that the children are doing in school on their topic they will also be given a POWER project to complete during each short term. If your child requires any extra support or resources to support this then please do see me. We will once again be running a KS2 homework club on a Wednesday after school where staff will be on hand to support children. Please look out for the clubs letter to sign up your child if you think this is something that they would benefit from in addition to the support you provide at home.

This year promises to be an exciting one with so many fantastic activities already planned; I look forward to working with both you and your child. I am always on hand at the beginning or end of the school day if you have any queries that I can help with or like I have said, we can arrange a time for a more in depth chat. I look forward to meeting you all!

Best wishes,

Mr A Pritchard.

