



Combe Martin School

Welcome to Year 5 - Puffins Class! Autumn Term 2023

Hello and welcome back to school. We hope you all had a great summer break and are ready for the new school year.

We are very excited to work with you and your children this year. Having parental support and open lines of communication is an essential part of a successful school year. Thank you for all you do for your child and our school, we are very grateful that you trust us to teach and care for your child each day. Miss Lucas is the class teacher for Puffins Class. Mrs Frances Mortlock will continue to teach Music.

Welcome Meeting

We would like to invite you into school on **Thursday 14th September at 2.50pm** for a chance to meet Miss Lucas and find out a bit more about the class this year.



Communication

We will be continuing to use Class Dojo to keep you up to date with what we are doing in class. Using Dojo is a really useful tool which means we can easily communicate with you: we can instantly share messages, updates and photographs from class. It's a great way for you to see what your child is doing in school and to get in touch with us. You should all have been already added to our new class, if you are not on Dojo yet please let us know and we will get a code to you.



We will also be using Google Classroom for learning activities, both in school and at home, please let us know if you need any support in accessing Google Classroom.



Google Classroom

Topic

Our topic for the first half of Autumn term is history based on an ancient civilisation in China called 'The Shang Dynasty'. In the second half of term we will be studying geography on the theme of a European region which we will examine using maps and other resources and also think about contrasting it with our own locality, here in North Devon. We will share a knowledge organiser with the children which will give an overview of the topic. If you can help with this topic in any way please let us know.

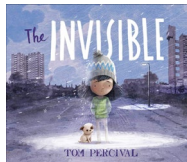


English

Children will be covering a range of text types in their English work, including Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction, some of this will be linked to our topic. Our first text which we will look at is 'The Lost Words' poetry written by Robert MacFarlane and illustrated by Jackie Morris. We will then move onto writing narratives and non-fiction using our Talk for Writing approach, this begins with the children learning a story using actions and text

mapping. We use the learnt texts to help us write our own texts in a similar, using paragraphs, effective description and adding suspense to engage our readers! During the second half of term we will look at non-fiction texts, learning to write information texts, again continuing to use Talk for Writing to develop as readers and writers ourselves.

In Key Stage Two we use Decision Spelling to develop the children's spelling skills, this approach helps children to make better choices when spelling through teaching them about spelling rules and patterns and the continued use of phonics to decode words.. As well as reading their independent reading books that they bring home, children will be participating in regular group reading sessions lead by a teacher.

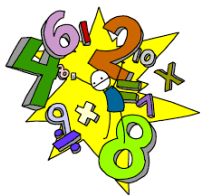


Talk for Writing

Maths

The children will be working on a range of mathematics this term, we will begin by working on Place Value (recognising numbers, counting, understanding the value of numbers, placing numbers in order), we will then move onto working on Addition and Subtraction then Multiplication and Division and then a substantial unit looking at Fractions.

You can continue to support your child by practising maths at home, using numbers in many situations, for example, telling the time, counting, money and learning times tables.



P.E.

P.E will take place on **Thursdays**. Please send the children into school on Thursdays dressed in their PE kits as they will not be changing in school, PE kits should include: a thin wind proof coat, well-fitting trainers, black or navy shorts or tracksuit trousers, a white T-shirt and a school jumper. The children will be taking part in a range of PE activities this term. As the weather starts to get colder please add a black or dark coloured hat and a pair of gloves! Please make sure that your child's name is in all of their kit. Please send children with a spare set of clothes on PE days in case clothes get wet or muddy.

Character Education and Super Learners

Character is who you are. It is what makes you...you. It is what you believe in and how you respond to situations and how you act.



Our work on developing character links really well with the Super Learner approach which we use in school. Each term we will learn about different character virtues, some of the virtues which the children may have talked about last year were: compassion, reflection, cooperation, resilience. We look to see children demonstrating character virtues, children who are 'caught' demonstrating a virtue will be recognised with a 'Shout Out' on our shout out boards in the classrooms. You can support our work on character with the children by helping them to talk and think about how they feel, as well as how they act in relation to moral situations and emotions.

Coming back into school may be a little daunting for some of the children but their Mindset could help with this greatly. A lot of how you address your children at home about school can have an effect on how they are feeling too, so although you may also be feeling a little anxious, try to frame being back in school as a big positive and hopefully your child will come into school feeling excited for the new challenges.

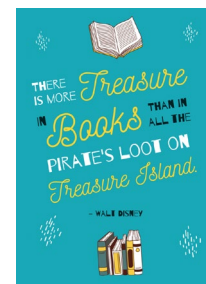
The children inevitably will face obstacles but it is about how they overcome these and how they use the Super Learner skills – resilience, reciprocity, reflectiveness and resourcefulness - to aid their own learning journey.

Reading

Reading is an essential life skill which underpins all of our work at school. It is a school expectation that all children read at home daily with parents and make a note of it in the Blue Love Reading scrapbooks. Please encourage the children to continue using these books to show their enjoyment of reading and their wide range of reading outside school!



Even when children are already fluent readers we can still help them to develop their reading skills. The best way is to continue to share books with your child, regularly listening to them read, sometimes reading to or with them, but also discussing books read in increasing depth. Most importantly, we want all the children to develop a 'love for reading', we will be sharing a range of texts with them in class and hope they will also widen their reading choices out of school and share them with us!



Each week the children will have a Reading Task which we will post on Google Classroom to complete at home which will be linked to the work which we have done during their Guided Reading sessions. These Reading Tasks can either be completed in their blue Love Reading books or in Google Classroom.

General Information

We encourage the children to be independent and it is their responsibility to bring their Love Reading Book and reading books in on a **daily** basis. If your child has a black or blue pen which they like to write with, they can bring their own pen in to use in school. **Please do not send any other equipment into school.** We do not have room on our desks or in the classroom for pencil cases, soft toys or other items children sometimes think they 'need' to bring in.

Each morning there will be a registration activity ready for children to work on when they come into the classroom. The expectation is that they come into class promptly, quietly and get on with the task, it is an important part of their learning for the day.



Morning Snack

Now that the children are all in Key Stage 2, they can bring in a piece of fruit to eat at morning breaktime as they are no longer entitled to the free fruit which is offered in Reception and Key Stage One. We do encourage you to send some fruit for them to eat as the morning is quite long for them without a snack!

Beginning and End of the Day

At the beginning of the day children need to make their own way into class. We have no additional adults working with us in Year 5 so if you do wish to speak to me, it will have to be at the end of the day as I need to supervise the children in the mornings.

At the end of the day, the children will make their way out of school to the front gates. If you have a child in Class 1 or 2 please collect them first and I will stay with your children at the main gates until you come around to collect them. If you want your child to walk home on their own, please ensure that you let me know, we cannot let any children leave school by themselves if we do not have parental permission.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about our work this term, please do come and see us, contact us via Class Dojo

Here's to an enjoyable, fun filled and exciting Autumn Term!

Miss Lucas



•ALWAYS•
BELIEVE THAT
SOMETHING
Wonderful
IS ABOUT
TO HAPPEN