



# Combe Martin School



## Jellyfish Newsletter Autumn Term 2023

Welcome back, I hope you have all had a wonderful summer holiday – it is a shame that the weather was not what we wanted but I hope you all made some wonderful memories nonetheless. I am very excited to be beginning another year with the Year 2's and welcome the new Year 1's into Jellyfish class. In the class this year there will be myself, Mrs Bayes as our class teaching assistant and 4 days a week from 10.30 to 12.15 we will have Mrs Adams supporting us. She will be working with different children across the class and we are looking forward to welcoming her into our classroom. In addition to this the children will also have Mrs Mortlock on Thursdays from 11.00 – 12.00 to have music lessons and singing assembly!

The first half term in a new class for some children can be a little worrying, getting to know a new teacher, new routines and mixing with different children. I am very keen to make school as fantastic as I can for your child so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns, questions or just things I might need to know. You can do this initially through Class Dojo or email on [a.lewis@alumnismat.org](mailto:a.lewis@alumnismat.org) and then we can arrange a face-to-face meeting if we feel it is necessary. I will not only use Class Dojo to communicate but also to share children's learning with you and let you know about upcoming events. I have set up a new class and should have moved your child into Jellyfish class 2023/2024. If you are having problems accessing this, please don't hesitate to contact me or if you are new to the school please ask for a joining code.

### Morning routines

Getting your child to school on time is essential to help with their progress. Every morning there will be an activity for them to complete when they come into school. If they are late, they miss this opportunity and often this is a chance for them to practise a new skill or to consolidate some learning. It also helps to settle your child and makes for a more productive morning. Please drop your child at the outside door (opposite the Key Stage 2 building) from 8.40 onwards. Registration will be at 8.50. Please report any absence as quickly as you can to our Admin team. We will help your child to settle especially in the early part of the term and help to build their skills of independence.



### Afternoon routines

The school day finishes at 3.15 – the gates will open at 3.10. Please collect your child from the same place you drop them in the morning.

### Character Education

Character Education remains at the heart of everything we do at Combe Martin School. We will continue to work towards our Inspiring Change maker awards across the year using our skills to become researchers, speakers, volunteers, adventurers, skill builders and young leaders. In addition to this, we will continue to celebrate the children showing the virtues in their attitudes and efforts in school, through our celebration assembly. This year that will take place on Wednesday afternoons with Starfish class and children who are 'caught' demonstrating a virtue will be recognised with a 'Shout Out' on our Proud Board in the classrooms. We will also continue to celebrate those children who go above and beyond every lesson, every day through our Hot Chocolate Friday nominations.



### English

We will be covering a range of text types in our English work, including Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction, some of this will be linked to our topic. We will continue to learn model texts and hope that the children can share their learning with you at home by showing you the texts we learn with actions. This approach to the teaching of writing is one which we use throughout the school and its main objective is that when the children learn texts they are more able to use and adapt the language of the learnt text in their own writing. We will be focusing on simple sentence structure and accurate punctuation in the first half term as well as a push on handwriting and letter formation. Some of the Year 2's will continue their learning journey with Phonics with our Year 1's and some Year 2 children will be doing spelling patterns with Mrs Adams. If your child passed the Phonics Screening Assessment and we feel they are ready to move to spelling patterns they will be in this group, the other Year 2 children will benefit greatly from repeating the Phonics to embed their learning from last year.



## Reading

Reading will have a huge focus this year, as it is such an important life skill. We really need your help with this. Reading every day with your child is so beneficial as well as a great activity to share together. Mrs Bayes, Mrs Adams and myself will listen to the children during guided groups. In these guided sessions, the Year 1 children's books will link to their phonics learning to help to consolidate their understanding. The phonics children will have 2 reading sessions in school, Monday and Tuesday and on Tuesdays they will bring the books home to share with you, please encourage your child to read these every day and ask them questions about the text to help with their comprehension skills and they will need to return the books on Friday please. Other Year 2 children will receive their reading books shortly and will have two structured reading sessions a week. Please be patient in the first week or so as we sort out which children need which books. In addition to these sessions, Mrs Bayes will try to listen to the children once a week. Those of you who were with me last year will remember Mrs Whately she is still kindly going to be volunteering in school but her role is slightly changing and the children may see her more often in class.



## Maths



The children will all begin with a focus on Place Value (recognising numbers, counting, understanding the value of numbers, placing numbers in order) as this underpins all Maths concepts. The children will have opportunities to use equipment, work in groups and explore the different mathematical concepts. We will then move onto addition and subtraction later in the term. We will also have a focus on number bonds for the first half term as it is important that the children are secure with number facts such as  $3 + 7 = 10$   $7 + 3 = 10$   $10 - 3 = 7$  etc and be able to do this with an automaticity.

## Topic

We begin the year with a History focus. Our key question is 'Would you like to be a monarch?' The children are going to be using their historical skills to learn about Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria and draw comparisons between the two helping them to decide if they would want to be a monarch or not!



## P.E.



Jellyfish class will be having their PE sessions with the PE specialist, this year called Gemma. This will take place on Fridays. Please ensure that your child comes into school on Fridays in the correct kit. This should include: appropriate trainers, black shorts/jogging bottoms, white T-shirt, sweatshirts and a clean pair of socks. A thin windproof coat is also useful, as even though currently it is nice weather, we cannot rely on good weather throughout the term! Please make sure that your child's name is in all their kit. PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO PE IN THE FIRST WEEK BACK.

## General information

Please make sure that your child has the correct items for the weather – in the early part of this term a hat may still be needed (you never know we may get a little late sun!). As the weather gets colder please make sure your child has a warm, waterproof coat in school every day. They will also need a water bottle and that is to have only water inside please. Jellyfish class will have access to a healthy snack every break time but if your child only likes a certain fruit you may wish to pack them a piece of fruit instead. Please also make sure you have labelled your child's clothes especially jumpers and cardigans as it makes life much easier as we play hunt the jumper!

Finally, I would like to invite you into school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 2.50 in my classroom for a meet the teacher session.

Here's to an enjoyable, fun filled and exciting Autumn Term! If you do have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for all your continuing support with our school and your child's learning – here's to a great year!

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