



Stephenson Memorial Primary School
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Mrs K.Lilico, Acting Executive Headteacher

Friday 13th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the new school year. By now your children will have settled well into their classes, with their new teachers. They will have found out about their projects and we hope they are excited to learn.. teachers have certainly planned a fantastic first term back for them! Please keep your eye on the dates for diary and any letters for information about events in or out of school.

I thought I would also share with you some of the key priorities that we are working on this year as a school. That way you can talk to your children about them, and the work that they are completing around them.

Ethic of Excellence

We are starting as we mean to go on here... we have talked to the children about having pride in their work and always producing the very best work they can. We talk to the children about “beautiful work” and how we want them always to produce the very best work that they can. This is not only in presentation (handwriting is something we always work on) but also in the content. This doesn't just apply for writing, but any work your child does, it should be beautiful, and they should be proud of their achievements and try their best all the time. Why don't you ask your child what beautiful work they have done today?

Reading

Reading is such a key skill. It is a skill that is used in every subject, from maths to science to art! This year, we are raising the profile of the importance of reading. We want our children to read for pleasure as well as read for knowledge. We have introduced reading assemblies this year. Years 1-3 are currently reading “Fing” by David Walliams and Years 4 -6 are reading “Wonder” by R J Palacio... Teachers are also planning lots of opportunities for your children to read throughout their projects, understanding the definitions of key words. The teachers create knowledge organisers for the children, these are key words and knowledge facts that the children need to know for this project. These will be placed on the schools website for you to look at.

Maths

Basic skills in maths is so important. We want to ensure that our children can fluently recall number facts, this really helps them when trying to solve problems. This year, as every year, we are working on the fluency of times tables recall. This is a tricky skill for some children and your help in helping your child learn these would be greatly appreciated.

Science & Technology

In Science we are focussing on ensuring that our children are involved in lots of practical investigations. Hands on Science is so important to children's learning... and let's be honest, its great fun! We want our children to experience science first hand, be articulate in being able to talk through their knowledge and what they've learnt and be able to reason and problem solve, test and prove that theories are right.... or wrong... and have a great time whilst doing it. If any Parents/Carers have a science background or connections we would love to hear from you!

As you are aware we are a very proud Apple Distinguished School, this year we are hoping to build on the global connections we have made and learn from some of the very best apple educators across the world to make our practice even better! We are also working on digital skills and making sure all our children have the tools they need to become technology experts!

I hope this gives you a flavour of some of the work that we will be doing over the year and if anyone would like to discuss this further... my door is always open.

Thank you for your continued support



Mrs Kerry Lilico
Headteacher