8th September 2018

GREAT WISHFORD C.E. (V.A.) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Welcome back to the Autumn term. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer holiday and have had an opportunity to enjoy the fantastic weather. At the top of the school, in Upper Key Stage 2 there is a natural increase in the expectations of behaviour and attitude towards learning, as well as being academically challenging. However both Mrs Lamont and I are looking forward to helping all the children in Osprey class reach their full potential, develop a greater learning and organisation independence, as well as having lots of fun along the way!

**Homework**

Children will receive an information sheet, which will tell them what is required of them each week. It will then be their responsibility to remember when homework is set and due back in for marking. This term, all homework (including spellings) will be set on a Friday and will be due in the following Wednesday. It can be handed in earlier if it is completed beforehand. If your child has difficulties completing an activity, they must come and tell me before the hand in date so that I can explain it again for them. Children will be tested on their weekly spellings and times tables on a Friday.

**The 3 Rs**

\* Reading stamina becomes of increasing importance as the children progress through the school, and for Year 6 as they prepare for their SATs at the end of the year. We would urge all children to try to read to themselves, or to an adult, for at least 15 minutes, five times a week.

 \* Spelling homework will be set on a weekly basis. This will include writing some spellings into sentences, in order for children to a) improve their sentence construction and b) learn their spellings within a context. The children must learn their spellings on a regular basis in order for the spelling patterns to be consolidated.

Mental arithmetic is a corner stone of all areas of maths, and at its heart is the ability to use the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) with confidence. To support this, Mrs Lamont and I will be helping the children to learn, and recall at speed, their times tables. It would greatly benefit the children to practise mental maths at home, specifically their times tables and related division facts in order to support their confidence in class.

**Equipment**

Children must bring a water bottle to school for use in the classroom to avid valuable learning time spent with cups, jugs or at the water fountain. Basic writing equipment for use inside the classroom will be provided for children. However, if the children would like to bring a pencil case with colouring pencils, they may. As a parent myself, I appreciate that naming pens and pencils is time consuming and tedious; however, it can reduce the potential for disagreements, and items can be returned easily if they are misplaced. The children are expected to bring their reading book to school every day, which can be brought from home or borrowed from the school library.

If you have any queries or questions about these or any other matters, please don’t hesitate to speak to either of us.

Yours sincerely

 Mrs Sarah Lamont and Mrs Rachael Banham