



Springfield Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs Samaira Nasim

11th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, welcome to all our new children that have joined the reception class - Gruffalos. Also, a warm welcome to all our new parents. I look forward to meeting you all over the course of the year.

As we start a new year, I would like to draw your attention to what you can expect over the next few weeks.

Topic Grids

At the start of each term your child's class teacher will be sending home a topic grid that outlines what your child will be learning over the course of the term. The first topic grid will be sent home on Friday 13 September. A copy of this can also be found on the school's website under the relevant class pages for 2019-20 as well as being displayed in the parent communication board outside your child's classroom.

Reading books/test- Years 2-6

On Friday 13 September we will be sending home your child's recent reading test results. For existing parents, you will be aware that we use the accelerated reader program with years 2-6 as part of our reading scheme.

At the start of the year we baseline all our children on the Star Reading Test. Once the children have been tested, we can generate individual diagnostic reports that then inform the teachers of what level the children are reading at and the level of books that they can then select from. All this information will be available to you, from the report sent home.

Star Literacy test

All our year one children have recently been tested on the Star Literacy program. Like years 2-6, they too will be receiving a report this Friday.

Homework

This year we have decided to move away from a termly homework topic grid to sending out weekly homework. All homework for all years, will be sent out on Fridays and expected back the following Wednesday. Given the constraints on school budgets, instead of children being given a homework book, we will be sending out worksheets. Please note that you can expect the first homework this Friday.

SPag.com

In addition to daily reading your child's teacher will be setting fortnightly online homework linked to spelling, punctuation and grammar on spag.com. For any child that doesn't have access to a laptop or computer, provision will be made for them to access this homework in school, during the school day. To access the test, you will need to type in: www.spag.com into the URL. Following on from this the following screen will be displayed:



PTO



Once the screen has been uploaded your child will be able to enter his/her unique username and password (this can be found on the inside cover of their reading record) and then undertake the test that has been assigned by the teacher. On completion of the test(s) your child's class teacher will then be able to log on and see how well they have done. To ensure that the responses are reliable as possible we do ask that your child attempts this without support, as this will give us an accurate picture of what your child can/cannot do.

Times Table Rock Stars

At Springfield we want all our pupils to have great recall of the times tables. Confidence in mathematics can often be traced to slow recall of times table facts, which is one of the foundations of mathematics. Because of this, for the second year running, we have enrolled all of our children from Years 1-6 onto Times Table Rock Stars to help them practise their times tables.

For those of you that are new to this, Times Table Rock Stars is an online programme for times table practice that is both effective and motivational. Your child will have received a login and password (stuck inside the cover of their reading record) that will allow them to access games to improve their speed of recall and, should they wish, to compete against their classmates and children around the world.

When it comes to times tables, **speed and accuracy** are important. Bursts of daily practise are more effective than spending hours once a week recalling facts. This is where you as parents can help. Please encourage your child to play the game at home regularly to develop a regular habit that will assist their mathematics, just as daily reading helps boost skills in reading and writing.

Times Tables Rock Stars can be easily accessed with internet browsers or alternatively with phones and tablets using the Times Table Rockstar app.

For internet browsers, visit: <https://trockstars.com> For apps, visit the App/Play Store.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs S Nasim

Samaira Nasim
Headteacher