



Welcome Back!

Happy New Year! We hope that you have all had a fun-filled yet restful break. It has been lovely to see so many cheery faces ready for the new term, followed by even cheerier ones from the parents!

Spring is season of new life and we are looking forward to Mrs Tibbetts and her family welcoming a new member very soon. While Mrs Tibbetts is on maternity leave, we are very pleased to be joined by Mrs Freeman who will be teaching 34T.

Our Spring Term Curriculum.

This term's topic comes under the heading of, 'Time for Climate change?' This topic is geographically based and will involve the children exploring maps, globes, hemispheres and tropics. They will be able to investigate different views—such as 'bird's eye' and understand scale and keys. Who knows? We may even have some future explorers!

In Science, we will be investigating Forces (including magnets) followed by Light.

Successful outside learning

During the Autumn term, we enjoyed some really effective hands-on learning such as building Stone Age shelters and cooking Stone Age stew which were a great success!

This term, plans are equally as exciting, with physical classroom plans being constructed, treasure hunts, using aerial photographs and plans of the school. It should be great!

Wider Experiences!

Our school trips have become one of the most successful parts of our curriculum with children being able to immerse themselves in the topic they are learning. We are currently waiting to hear back from two possible destinations— both of which will be very exciting and will provide valuable and enjoyable learning experiences.

We will send out details as soon as possible.

Swimming

This term we are very pleased to be offering swimming as part of our curriculum for the children in year 4. Lessons in this vital life skill will take place on Thursdays. More details to follow.

Home-Learning

Home learning continues to be an essential part of your child's learning and is set every Friday along with spellings. It is expected to be bought in the following Friday. Home learning prepares children for learning that they will be doing next, or consolidates learning they have been doing in class. Times Tables Rock Stars is an important part of ongoing home learning—every child has their own log in so please ask one of us if your child does not know theirs. Children are also expected to read five times a week.

Other useful reminders

Please ensure that your child **always** has the following items in school:

- Coat (**named**)
- Water bottle (**named**)
- PE kit including plimsolls and an outdoor kit including trainers (**named**)
- Book bag or similar with reading book and reading diary and homework folder.

Part of our safeguarding against COVID 19 involves keeping the classrooms well-ventilated which means windows are kept open. Please ensure you send your child in to school with a jumper or cardigan to prevent them becoming cold and distracted from their learning.

Dates for your diary

Swimming lessons for children in year 4 start- **Thursday 13th January**

Child Progress updates to be sent out- **Friday 11th February**

Half term holiday- **week beginning 14th February**

Parent Consultations- **22nd and 23rd February**

School Trip— **to be confirmed**

Last day of Spring term- **Friday 1st April**

Start of Summer Term- **Tuesday 19th April**

Remember that lots of important information can be found on the school website:

<http://www.st-osyth.essex.sch.uk/>

Our Calendar

http://www.st-osyth.essex.sch.uk/calendar/action~month/exact_date~1567292400/request_format~html/

Our Newsletters

<http://www.st-osyth.essex.sch.uk/newsletter/>

Our Curriculum

<http://www.st-osyth.essex.sch.uk/our-children/>

Our Safeguarding

<http://www.st-osyth.essex.sch.uk/safeguarding/>

With best wishes for a Happy New Year and a successful Spring Term,

The Middle School Team