

## **Headteacher's Blog January 2019**

**Wishing you all a happy, healthy New Year**

### **Staffing**

Congratulations to Miss Baines, who has now successfully completed her Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) induction programme. We will be using some of our Sports Premium funding to enable her to teach more PE lessons across school, so she will be with us now on Fridays too.

### **Homework**

We are delighted that most children complete their homework each week and bring it in on time. In both Key Stage 2 classes, homework tasks will now be presented in a special 'Homework Book', instead of on loose sheets, to encourage the children's sense of pride and achievement in their work. It is, therefore, important that the Homework Book is returned on time, to enable us to mark the children's work and put the next week's tasks into it. Thank you for your support with this, as it will prepare the pupils well for much greater amounts of homework at secondary school.

We are always happy to be asked questions about homework tasks; there is time given for pupils to do this, e.g. on Mondays, if they are unsure of what to do. Although we will be offering Earth Works pupils a lunchtime homework catch-up session each Tuesday, a key benefit of doing tasks at home is sharing learning and finding out about your child's/children's school work.

### **PTA**

Thank you to our supportive PTA (especially helping Santa out with his excellent present choice). It would be great to get some of our newer parents involved in anything from attending meetings, helping fundraising events or any one-off support you feel you could offer. Decisions about events, and how to spend funds, are made by the elected committee members, following discussions at their regular meetings. The committee asks for school input for 'wish list' ideas in order to enhance learning opportunities and provision.

### **Curriculum**

Topic information for each class is available in the curriculum section of the school website.

Topics this term are:

Time Zone-The Shang Dynasty

Earth Works- Remarkable Rainforests

Space Base-Time Travellers

Splash-Wonderful World

Curriculum PE lessons take place across the week for all pupils.

On Monday mornings, pupils in Earth Works, Space Base and Time Zone classes have PE lessons, delivered by Paul Yeadon, through our Newcastle United Foundation programme. Year 5 and 6 pupils can remain in their PE clothes after the lesson, due to restricted changing time prior to lunch.

On Thursdays, years 1 to 4 are currently swimming each week. Time Zone will have PE 1-2pm.

On Fridays, Miss Baines (PE subject leader) will be delivering PE sessions to Splash, Space Base and Earth Works pupils.

Please check the next newsletter for after-school sports club details.

Kind regards,

Diane Lakey Jan 2019