

# **Autumn Term 2020**

## **Welcome to Skiddaw Class**

I am really looking forward to being able to welcome you to Skiddaw Class on Wednesday morning, to hear your news and all about any adventures during the summer holidays whether you've been staying at home or been lucky enough to go away somewhere. In this newsletter, I aim to let you know some important information about returning to school and answer any questions you may have.

Please do not worry about anything! School will feel a little different than usual but we will be doing our best to make sure you know what to expect and enjoy your first few days back. We have lots of fun things planned for the first week including: cooking, cricket, art, drumming and Lego!

### **What do I need to do before I come to school?**

Please make sure you have read the NEW Home-School Agreement located on the homepage of our website and you understand your responsibilities in school. Take a look at the photographs, videos and our class page before returning to school on Wednesday. Find out which family group you belong to and what time you need to arrive at school.

### **What should I wear to school?**

Please remember to come to school in your uniform and a pair of sensible shoes or ankle boots. On your PE days, Mondays and Thursdays you are asked to come to school in your PE kit wearing your trainers. Please remember to bring a coat to school every day.

### **What can I bring to school?**

Please remember to bring essential items only in your book bag. These may include:

- ✓ a named water bottle
- ✓ your reading book and reading record
- ✓ a snack (tuck shop won't be available at the moment)
- ✓ your packed lunch if required.

Please do not bring your home learning tasks and books yet that you completed in lockdown into school: we will ask for these at a later date. Please keep your pencil cases and own colouring pens safe for use at home. You will all have your own named pencil and we have lots of colouring and crafting things to use in class. Sometimes you may need to bring letters or payments into school too. These go in our green box. Water bottles will be stored in school by our sinks but will be returned home every Friday to be washed.

### **What do I do when I get to school?**

Please remember to arrive at school in your allocated time and enter the building via school's main front door. You should then walk through the library and hall and go straight to our cloakroom to find your peg. It is important that you then wash your hands thoroughly and for 20 seconds at either of the two sinks in our classroom. Whenever you use the toilets, please ensure there are no more than two people in this area at any time. There will be a morning task for you to begin independently. You will be able to find your place as your area will be labelled with your name. With everyone arriving at different times, our morning task sessions will last a little longer than usual and include more than one task.

### **Who will be teaching me?**

Every day you will be taught by Mrs Wadey. Mrs Matheson and Mrs Mason will also be in our classroom to support learning too. Mrs Craggs will teach PE.

### **When is PE?**

Unfortunately, plans to begin swimming lessons during the autumn term have been put on hold but we do hope to enjoy swimming later in the year. Outdoor PE takes place with Mrs Craggs on Mondays and Thursdays. On these days, you should come to school in your PE kit and your school shoes. You may like to wear tracksuit bottoms and PE hoodies as we will do PE outside even if it gets a bit colder. Earrings should be removed and long hair must be tied back.

### **How can my parents get a message to my teachers?**

Unfortunately, your parents can not come into school with you each morning. However, if they need to pass on some important information there are several ways this can be done: a handwritten note brought into school or an email to the school office. If the information is not urgent, please email our class email account at [skiddaw@levens.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:skiddaw@levens.cumbria.sch.uk). We will aim to get back to you within 48hours of you sending your message.

### **How do I leave school?**

All Skiddaw pupils will leave school via the main school entrance. The time you leave school will depend on your family group. If you are attending YoYo, your teacher will let you know when you should move into the hall to begin your YoYo session.

### **What homework is set in Skiddaw Class?**

Homework will be set every week and child may need help in how to organise their time so that the tasks are completed and handed in before the following Monday. All homework tasks are tailored specifically to your child's ability. This will usually take the form of a sheet of paper with clear instructions on a task which might be Maths (number facts or games), English (spellings or sentence work) or a topic based task. Spellings and number facts tasks are presented in a way that supports long remembered learning. Practising a little and often, rather than completing the whole sheet in one go, is recommended. Children will need support in managing this and getting in good routines that fit around their other weekly commitments and that will serve them well for the rest of their lives!

**IDL** is an online spelling and reading programme which everyone in our class will be using. **TRockstars (Y3 and 4 only)** is an online game for supporting learning and progress in times tables which everyone in years 3 and 4 will be using. Both these programmes can be accessed at home, details on our class page of the website.

**Reading** is also part of Skiddaw's weekly homework and everyone should read at least five times a week for 10-15mins; keeping a note of all reading in reading records. This helps us to monitor reading and talk to the children about their reading routines and interests. Some children may prefer to read independently, although times to share a book and read with an adult are essential to develop fluency and comprehension skills. Children, as well as parents, can write notes about their reading in reading records.

Please refer to our homework policy published on our website for further information on homework.

### **What about uniform?**

All uniform, including PE Kit needs to be clearly named please. Jewellery, make-up and nail polish are not permitted on school days. Although stud earrings are allowed to be worn, they should not be worn on PE days or be removed by the wearer prior to the lesson starting. Long hair should always be tied up and all children should wear sensible school shoes or ankle boots and have a coat in school every day. Trainers, pumps and knee high boots are not suitable footwear for school. Girls can choose to wear tights or long socks to keep their legs warm as the days get cooler; but not leggings.

### **What will we be learning in the Autumn Term?**

**Maths:** We will focus on number work this term, learning about our number system and place value along with sequences, comparing and rounding. We will be exploring a progression of methods of adding and subtracting, multiplying and dividing. We will be applying our number skills to estimating and problem solving, money and measures.

**English:** We will begin our term with learning and using storytelling techniques linked to Aesop's Fables like The Fox and the Stork. We will be designing puppets and using drama to retell our stories. We will then go onto reading books linked to our History topic including Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Katimura and instruction writing with How to wash your woolly mammoth. We will have guided reading sessions every week where the children will study a range of texts in detail. This term we will have a special focus on learning and practising correct letter formation and joined handwriting. Spelling/phonics, punctuation and grammar will be worked on each day in morning tasks and English lessons.

**Science:** Animals including humans looking at stages of life, nutrition, skeletons and muscles.

**History:** Changes in Britain from the Stone Age (exploring hunter gathers and early farming) in the Bronze Age (religion, technology and travel including Stonehenge) and in the Iron Age (hill forts, tribal kingdoms, farming, art and culture).

**PE:** Striking and fielding games such as rounders and cricket.

**Computing:** Learning to independently use our school computing system for accessing online learning such as IDL and maths games as well as word processing.

**RE:** Exploring our Christian Values 'Thankfulness' and understanding what Christians and Muslims understand about the need for thankfulness in their lives. Learning about People of God in Christianity as well as work linked to Harvest and Christmas.

**DT:** Cooking, model making linked to our History and Science topics.

**Art:** Drawing and sketching and art inspired by Stone Age to Iron Age Britain. Collage linked to the work of Giuseppe Acrimboldo.

**Languages:** Sign language including the countryside, transport and emotions (Autumn 2).

**Music:** Singing and listening, playing percussion instruments including hand drums.

We will also be visiting our woodland area to enjoy some Forest Schools activities during the first part of this term. This term's theme is outdoor challenges and problem solving.

We will be continuing to use our school website, especially the blog and our class page (found via Pupils, Skiddaw Class), to keep you informed and share our learning with you with photos and information. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our class drop-ins this year, however, if you'd like to contact me please do so via our class email account at [skiddaw@levens.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:skiddaw@levens.cumbria.sch.uk) and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

We will be making telephone calls to the parents of all pupils in the second and third week of term to let you know how the term has started, so we look forward to talking to you then.

Hope you find this information useful, keep it nearby for referring to throughout the first few weeks. I'll be waiting for you in the classroom and Mrs Farraday will be greeting you on the playground when you arrive. See you soon!

Mrs Wadey