

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Tucana Class! We are excited to begin our learning journey this year, exploring lots of new topics. Here are a few things you need to know:

Topics and Learning

Our topics this year are 'School Days', 'Bright Lights Big City' and 'Childhood'. These will be our main learning points this year, where we will be learning a lot about History and Geography through different areas of the curriculum. Alongside these we will be learning lots of new things through smaller topic projects in Art, Design and Technology, Science and Geography. Children also have regular learning experiences in RE, Computing, Music and PSHE lessons.

Reading

Children in Tucana class change their books daily with each book being recorded in their reading diaries. If children do not finish their books in one day then they can keep them for longer. If you read with your child please write a comment in their reading record so the adults in the class know they have been reading at home. In the front of our reading records are some recommended questions and discussion points you can use whilst reading with your child. In Year 1 and 2 children build on their comprehension skills and it is important to continue this learning at home. Reading records will be checked on Fridays and stamped by an adult. If your child has read 3 times or more in the week they will receive a gold star to encourage reading.

Spelling

In Tucana we focus on the spelling of Common Exception Words/High Frequency Words children will need to use in their writing. These will be assigned to individual children and tested a week later. If they have learnt their spellings they will be given new words to learn. It is expected that children practice these at home and they will go home in their spellings folder with a 'look, cover, write, check' sheet for home use. We will also be learning new spelling rules in both phonics and spelling sessions during the school day.

Phonics

Daily phonics sessions for all Year 1 and some Year 2 children in school will focus on certain sounds in Phase 3 and Phase 5 of phonics. We follow the Bug Club phonics scheme and the sounds we are focussing on will be written at the bottom of your child's reading record if they are in a phonics group. Their Bug Club will also be updated with activities and learning to be done at home. Children in Year 2 who are not in a phonics group will have daily sessions to learn spelling, punctuation and grammar rules.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has a clearly labelled water bottle in school. We will keep them in school during the week. Children will take their bottles home on Fridays and must be brought back on Monday morning. They will be refilled with fresh water daily.

Milk and Fruit

Children receive a variety fruit and a cup of milk at break times, provided by the school. If your child wishes to bring in their own snack, please can this be in a labelled box which we can put in the lunchbox cupboard.

PE

Our PE days will be on Monday and Thursday afternoons. PE kits stay in school until the end of the short term when they will be sent home. Children must have PE kit in school on these days. If your child has a sports club in the week, they will not get changed before pick up at 4pm. They will go home with their uniform in their PE bag. Please can you ensure their PE kit returns to school in their bags on the following day.

Teachers and Teaching Assistants

Miss Crocker is the teacher in Tucana class and we are very lucky to have Mrs Bowen, Mrs Smith and Mrs Gilroy as our teaching assistants. Mrs Lawton teaches PE on Thursday afternoons.

Homeroom

Everyone should have received an invitation to Homeroom which can be downloaded as a smartphone app or used on a web browser. Please do let the office know if you have not yet received one and we will add you to it. We will be sharing information here about our learning, pictures of our work and experiences and any class notices, so it is important that parents are joined in case information is missed.

I am really looking forward to a busy year of learning in Tucana Class. If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to contact me via email: tucanahomework@stpeters.oxon.sch.uk and I will respond during normal school hours. If there is anything that needs urgent attention, please contact the school office.

Many thanks,

Miss Crocker