

Kingfisher Class-Welcome Letter – September 2022

General Information

Welcome to Kingfisher Class! I am looking forward to working together to ensure that all children continue to reach their full potential, feel confident, listened to, and love their time at school. We are extremely fortunate to have Mrs Manship supporting in our class throughout the week, as our Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA). Mrs Manship and I both care immensely about helping each child grow as individuals and as part of a team.



In Kingfisher Class, the focus will be on growing and developing personal confidence, academically and with friends. We will continue to promote thinking positively about ourselves, developing our self-belief and self-esteem and recognising our individual progress. We will continue to develop feeling 'proud', feeling proud of the work we achieve, the behaviour that we radiate and of who we are.

Kingfishers and Falcons will continue to work closely together, due to the split of Year 5 children. With last year being the first year of the mixed-age classes, we have reflected on the structure of sessions, alongside feedback from the children within the two classes, and this will be reflected in some slight changes this academic year. Children within Kingfishers will have opportunities to take part in many lessons as a whole class and some lessons in their single year group.

For Year 5 parents, where children have remained in the same class, please be reassured that curriculum coverage will not be repeated and enquiry projects are different too. As the children will relay from experiences last year, there are small, subtle but clear differences to how the mixed age class dynamic works within the classroom. More information about when single year group teaching will occur can be shared at the upcoming Welcome meeting.

As we ran a residential last academic year, we will not run one this year. Instead, we will plan opportunities for class trips or have visitors in school to enhance our learning.

Kingfisher Projects

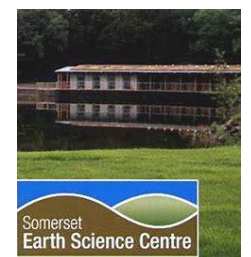
We are kicking things off this year with The Romans in the Autumn term and will be considering 'how did the arrival of the Romans, change Britain?'. Our enquiry will also link to PE and Art, as we begin with Roman dance and will be creating beautiful mosaics. Later in the term, we will be looking at 'what makes the world angry?' in Geography, with a focus on volcanoes and earthquakes. We'll be using the book *Escape From Pompeii* for our class work and reading *The Great Food Bank Heist* by Onjali Q Rauf as our first short class story, before we move on to *The Firework Maker's Daughter*.



The Autumn term brings exciting new subjects too... we will be starting to learn French! We will also be launching our first unit in Music called 'Mamma Mia' (Miss Juden's favourite).

First Visit

Linking to 'What makes the world angry?' we will be visiting the Somerset Earth and Science Centre on **Tuesday 15th November** for a workshop on volcanoes and the dynamic earth, from an extinct volcano site. The Earth Science Centre have been fantastically accommodating and are giving us transport there and back, and the workshop, for £2 per child. Please make this payment using School Gateway by **Friday 14th October**.



For more information and our long-term plan, please see the Kingfisher class page on the school website.

Reading

Reading continues to be priority and it is essential that all children enjoy reading in some capacity. Children are encouraged to read books from school, the library, or books from home. Please ensure these are brought to school every day for reading opportunities within the classroom, or our reading area. In the 'supporting your child at home' document, some initial reading recommendations based on authors the children may already enjoy have been signposted. For more bespoke recommendations, please contact me through Class Dojo and I will be happy to recommend appropriate texts to suit individuals. All children should read at least four times a week, to an adult where possible, and record this in their yellow reading record alongside a brief comment, or response. These will be checked weekly.

PE

PE will be on a Wednesday and Friday. Please see the school website for a reminder on our school PE kit. For the variable weather, please make sure indoor kit, and warmer options for being outdoors. As well as PE lessons, children will have regular movement breaks in the form of track time and short dance breaks.

We are lucky to have a Forest School area at school as one of our outdoor spaces. It is important that children have wellies and coats in school every day so that they can use this area at any time.

Year 5 children will also be going swimming on a Monday and will need appropriate kit.

Uniform

As role models for younger children, it is important that they set a good example. Please ensure that your child is wearing the appropriate clothing and footwear. For those children who have their ears pierced, it should be plain studs, which will need to be removed or covered with tape during PE. Other than a watch or medic alert bracelet, there should be no other jewellery/accessories. Any child with longer hair needs to have their hair tied back. In addition to our standard school uniform, you may wish to provide your child with an oversized, or old shirt to use as an Art apron. Please see the school website for a reminder on our uniform.

Bottles

Your child is encouraged to have their own water bottle in school with their name on. Please do not put these in the same bag as their books, as we have had many ruined through bottle leaks. Children keep their water bottles with them during lesson time, so they can access these when needed.

Communication

It's important that there are strong communication links between home and school. Class Dojo messages and emails are brilliant at helping us maintain those links, as well as share what we get up to in the classroom. The use of Class Dojo messages, and emails, will continue to be our main forms of communication instead of conversations before and immediately after school. This ensures that I can focus on making sure that children are released safely at the end of the day, as well as supporting children with this transition period. If you need to discuss any issues, concerns or general queries further, then I will be happy to arrange a meeting.

If you are sharing information about attendance or something for that same day, please contact the School Office. This is because I may not always get the chance to check emails/messages before the end of the school day.

Behaviour expectations

Already this term, we have worked on remembering and re-establishing our school rules (Ready, Respectful and Safe) and learning behaviours (Accuracy, Resilience, Collaboration, Independence and Reflection). Children will continue to earn Class Dojo points when they are seen to be going **above and beyond** the standard expectations. This may be in pieces of work they produce; answers they give and how they conduct themselves around the school.



Home Learning

Your support with your child's learning and development is invaluable and I would like to thank you in advance for the learning that will continue to take place at home. More information about home learning expectations are highlighted below. It is important that children's learning habits get off to a good start. In school, we will establish and maintain a routine to meet all children's needs and promote curiosity, engagement and success. Key Stage 2 is an important stage in your child's primary journey and it is essential that children complete the home learning set.

Home learning will be set each week (unless stated otherwise) on a **Wednesday** and will need to be completed and shared by **Tuesday morning**.

Considering parental feedback and changes for the upcoming year, Home Learning will be as follows;

- As mentioned above, children will be expected to read at least four times a week.
- Children will have one list of spellings, set for them on Spelling Shed. They will be expected to play 6 games on Spelling Shed each week. Each game is on average two minutes long.
- Children will practice at home on Times Tables Rockstars for 15 minutes every week.
- After the first half term, starting from after October half term (WC 31st Oct) children in Year 4 will receive an additional piece of work to complete at home. This will be something linked to class work that will need to be returned either through Dojo, or on paper, depending on how the task is given to the children. This will be a short activity, such as practicing the concept taught in maths that week. Children in Year 5 will receive two short tasks.

Class Welcome Meeting

The Class Welcome Meeting will be Tuesday 13th September from 3.30pm until 4pm in our classroom. During this meeting, I can share key information for Kingfisher Class and will suggest ways in which you can support your child further at home, as well as answer any questions you may have.

I am looking forward to an exciting and enjoyable year!

Kind Regards,

Miss Juden

Year 4/5 Kingfishers Timetable (Summer Term One 2022-2023)

| | 8.45 – 9.05 | 9.05 – 9.30 | 9.30 - 10 | 10 – 11 | | 11.15 – 12.15 | | 1.15 – 1.50 | 1.50 – 3.05 | 3.05 – 3.25 |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|----------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Monday | Learning together for life in all its fullness Whole School Worship 9:10-9:45 | Split Maths | | | Break | Year 4 multiplication Y5/6 swimming | | SPAG | RE | Class Story |
| Tuesday | | English | | | | Split Maths | | French | Enquiry 2:00 – 3:00 | Class Story |
| Wednesday | | English | PE | | | Split Maths | | Miss Juden PPA, Mrs Manship teaching Chromebooks | | Class Story |
| Thursday | | English | Whole class Maths | | | Split PSHE | | Art | Music | Class Story |
| Friday | | WS Singing 9:10 (HALL) | English | | | Whole class Maths | | Geography | PE | Class Story |