

Headlines

Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls CE Primary School Newsletter
October 2015

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Big Maths – New Curriculum

The New National Curriculum that was released in 2014 came into effect from this September. One of the big changes is that National Curriculum levels have been scrapped and have been replaced by end of year age related expectations of what a child of each year group should be able to do. Schools have been left to devise their own methods of tracking progress and we are well underway with implementing our solution. When we have fine-tuned this we will be able to arrange a Parents Information Evening to put you in the picture!

The school has been using the 'Big Maths' approach to teaching core mathematical skills for some time and we used the last TD Day at the end of September to update our knowledge and see how the new curriculum has impacted on this. Part of 'Big Maths' is an approach to learning tables and addition facts that are referred to as 'Learn Its'. There are 72 of these in total to be learnt across years R-4 and the aim is for children to be able to recall them as quickly and automatically as they can their own name. I have reproduced the addition and multiplication 'Learn Its' on the reverse of this newsletter and the order in which these will be tackled. Typically your child will be focussing on 3 'Learn Its' at a time each short term so your help with reinforcing these at home would be most helpful. Year 5 and 6 will be 'back filling' any gaps they might have and completing the 'Ultimate Challenge' of recalling all 72 'Learn Its' in 90 seconds!

The idea is that once children know 2x3 they also know 3x2 (which the children learn to refer

to as a 'switcher') so there is no need to learn that again as part of the 3 times table. By the time children get to learning the 6, 7 and 9 times tables there are only 6 more facts to learn (6x6, 6x7, 6x9, 7x7, 7x9, 9x9) – hence the '6 fact challenge'!

Staff Changes

Mrs Jenny Newton, one of our Teaching Assistants who works in Spots Class will be leaving the school at half term to make time to pursue other interests. Mrs Newton has been working at the school for 13 years and has worked with children from Reception to Year 6. She has a particular interest in literacy and has run a number of literacy 'catch up' interventions for small groups of children to bring on their writing, has been involved in many of the school plays and pantomimes and during the school's last Ofsted inspection her super work with small groups was particularly noted by the inspector.

As a staff we will be giving leaving presents. If you would like to contribute to a present for Mrs Newton please could you put money in an envelope and give it directly to Mrs Jacobs. We will be presenting gifts to Mrs Newton on Wednesday 21st during assembly time if you would like to join us.

Breakfast & After School Club

Thank you to all of you that completed the questionnaire we put out last term to gauge demand for child care before and after the school day.

We will be spending the remainder of the Autumn Term looking into the viability of both clubs which will depend on there

being approximately 10 children attending the club each day and the availability of staff with the appropriate experience and qualifications to run the club (with cover in case of illness). If both of these conditions are met then we would be aiming to start one or both of the clubs from January. The most likely hours of operation will be 8 - 8.45am for the Breakfast Club and 3.15 – 5pm for the After School Club

School Uniform & Water Bottles

We have noticed that a range of non-uniform items are being worn for school recently making the children look untidy. Please can you ensure that school logoed purple polo shirts and jumpers / cardigans are worn every day and especially next Wednesday for school photographs. Also a reminder that trainers are not part of our normal school uniform and are for PE only. Earrings should be studs only.

Please can you also ensure your child has a water bottle with them everyday for use in the classroom. They are available for £1.30 from the school office if required.

Other Diary Dates

Zig-Zags to Salisbury Cathedral
Friday 16th October

International Day
Tuesday 20th October

School Photographs
Wednesday 21st October

Last Day Term 1
Wednesday 21st October

First Day Term 2
Monday 2nd November

Bags-2-Schools
Textile recycling collection on
Wednesday 25th November.