



# Baptist Class Curriculum Letter Autumn 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a great summer break.

This year your child is in Baptist Class and will be taught by Miss Crowther who will be assisted by Miss Castagno, Ms Sommergyll and Miss Keane-Parry.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the class routines and the topics your child will be learning about this half-term.

## **Routines**

### Homework

Your child will receive homework each Thursday so that you have an opportunity to look over it with them and ask questions on Friday, if there is anything you do not understand. Additionally it allows an extra day to complete homework at weekends, enabling children to complete their homework on Thursday or Friday even if they have a busy weekend.

Homework is always linked to the work that has been carried out in class and provides your child with a valuable opportunity to share and consolidate the learning that has taken place in school. Your child's homework will be stuck in their homework book and this book should be returned to school on Monday mornings.

### Spellings

Spelling lists will be given out each Tuesday and should be learnt throughout the week in preparation for a spelling test the following Monday. Your child should practise their spellings every day to ensure they have committed them to memory and can apply them in their writing.

Next week, we will be teaching the children about the spelling routine: the different strategies for learning their spellings and how to record them on the spelling grid. We will be giving your child his/her first set of words to learn to spell next Tuesday and your child will have their first spelling test on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September. They should also return their spelling grid on that day.

### Homework Timetable

Tuesday: Spellings sent home

Thursday: Homework sent home

Monday: All homework is returned

## Reading

Your child has been provided with a reading book and we will hear your child read twice a week. Their book will be changed on a weekly basis. To facilitate this, please ensure your child's reading book and reading record are brought to school in their book bag every day. It is very important that you hear your child read out loud each day and ask questions about their book to check their understanding. Their school reading book should be read more than once to ensure that they cannot only read the words but, most importantly, understand what it is about. Please remember to record a comment in your child's reading record every time that you hear them read. We also encourage children to read books from home and the library in addition to those sent from school, to broaden their reading experience.

In addition to this, your child will also take part in Guided Reading sessions where they will have an opportunity to read and discuss a range of interesting texts (selected by the class teacher), with their peers and the teacher. Guided Reading is designed to develop your child's knowledge of reading strategies and to promote a love of reading.

Your support with reading, spellings and homework is greatly appreciated and I am available, by appointment, or at the end of the day, to answer any questions regarding these matters or to discuss any other questions you may have.

## Uniform

We consider water bottles a part of school uniform and something that are vitally important to help keep children hydrated and help them concentrate so they can be effective in their learning. Please send your child to school with a full water bottle (containing only water) every day and ensure these, and **all items of your child's uniform, are clearly labelled with their name**. This will ensure they can be easily recovered if lost and minimise the cost of replacement.

This half term your child will be learning the following:

### **Maths**

In maths we will be focusing on number recognition, counting forwards and backwards on and sequencing and ordering numbers. Your child will learn the value of digits in numbers and to partition numbers into tens and units e.g. 12 is one ten and two units, to support them when ordering and comparing numbers and help them develop their mathematical reasoning e.g. *I think that 47 is smaller than 74 because it only has 4 tens and 74 has 7*. They will then use this knowledge to compare numbers by using the  $>$   $<$   $=$  symbols. Towards the end of the half term, we will be developing our knowledge of mental calculation strategies to help children prepare for using formal written methods later on in the term.

### **English**

In English, your child will develop their understanding of our class text through role play and discussion. They will orally retell a traditional tale before writing a recount that will enable them to revisit the use of fundamental punctuation such as capital letters and full stops. Later in the term, your child will be introduced to poetry and hear and discuss poems to celebrate National Poetry Day in October.

Our last unit in English will link to our History topic this term as we will be writing a report on Walter Tull. Your child will learn what features can be found in reports and how to make them interesting and engaging. They will then apply this knowledge when writing their own report.

Your child will continue to develop their phonic knowledge to enable them to identify letter sounds, blend sounds to read and sound out spellings.

## **RE**

At the start of the term, your child will be studying the topic of *Beginnings*. In class, we will learn about the beginning of the world in the creation story and explore psalms thanking God for the gift of our world. We will discuss the joy and challenges new beginnings can bring in our own lives and how God can support us with these.

Following this, your child will explore the Jewish celebration of *Shabbat* (the Sabbath). They will learn about how this important time is recognised in the Jewish faith and what makes this day special for Jewish people.

Finally, your child will learn the different sign and symbols which feature in the sacrament of Baptism. Through discussion, they will unpick the meaning of these different elements and learn how they unite us in God's family.

### **Science**

In science, our topic is 'Everyday Materials'. Your child will be exploring materials such as wood, plastic and paper to enable them to identify different materials and build awareness of their properties before designing investigations to discover the best uses of different materials. They will be thinking carefully about how to ensure that their tests are fair and will use their data handling skills to record their results.

### **Computing**

This half term, your child will learn key coding skills, including programming, in order to debug their own code. This unit also enables your child to develop their investigation and critical thinking skills, collaboration skills, persistence in the face of difficulty, and their awareness of the importance of internet safety.

### **History**

Your child will be learning about Walter Tull, one of the first black professional footballers to play in England and an officer who fought in WW1. Through reading texts and exploring other sources, your child will discover what life was like in Britain over one hundred years ago, as well as learning about the significant achievements of this remarkable man on the pitch and on the battlefield. Finally, they will write a report to illustrate what they have learned, including a reflection on the impact that Walter's life has had on shaping our lives today.

### **Art**

In art this term, your child will learn what a sculpture is and who creates them. They will look at different artist's work and discuss what its purpose is. The children will be using a range of materials creatively to design and make their own sculptures, thinking about techniques to join materials and the impact of colour on their design.

### **PE**

In Indoor PE, your child will learn to balance on different body parts and explore a range of ways of travelling in gymnastics. They will develop sequences by linking combinations of gymnastic actions, body shapes and balances with control and precision.

In Outdoor PE, your child will develop their kicking skills and work on travelling with a ball, dribbling and passing techniques. Additionally, they will begin to explore simple gaming tactics such as selecting an appropriate pass or dribble and marking opponents.

Outdoor PE will take place on Mondays and Indoor PE will take place on Tuesdays. The children's PE kits should contain a tracksuit, shorts, t-shirt and trainers. PE kits should be brought to school on a Monday and remain in school all week (please ensure that your child's PE kit and the rest of their uniform is clearly labelled with their name).

### **Relationships Education**

In PSHE, your child will learn how to stay safe when using the internet and the importance of having rules in our lives. We will also be introducing some group and paired games sessions to help children with their speaking and listening, turn taking skills and promote positive play.

## **Music**

Music will be taught by our music specialist Mr Dixon and our lessons will take place on Wednesdays. Your child will have the opportunity to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes and experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using a variety of musical instruments.

As always, if you have any questions regarding any of the information in this letter; or any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am available at the end of the day to answer quick questions; however, appointments can be made via the school office for lengthier conversations.

I look forward to working with your child during the coming year and to speaking to you about their development in the future.

Kind regards,

Miss Crowther  
Baptist Class Teacher