



## **Kingfishers**

### **Autumn 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**



Dear Parents/Carers of Kingfishers Class,

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and managed to enjoy some sun, time with family and friends and a well-deserved rest! Mrs Chapple and I are very excited to be teaching your child this academic year. This half-term we have a lot to fit in, including a class trip to the British Museum on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate our topic on Ancient Egypt. I am so excited about this; I still fondly remember my trip there when I learnt about the Egyptians in primary school and I hope this trip leaves lifelong memories for Kingfishers too! Keep an eye out for the letter about this coming home with the children very soon!

### **This Half-Term's Learning**

Our topic this half-term is called 'Tomb Raiders'. In this topic, we will be going back in time to explore the Ancient Egyptian civilisation. We will be exploring the human and physical geography of modern Egypt, making comparisons with England, as well as diving into the rich and fascinating history of Ancient Egypt where we will learn about situating the civilisation on a history timeline, the social ranking of individuals in Ancient Egypt, famous pharaohs, their belief system (Gods and Goddesses), the importance of pyramids and inventions and achievements of Ancient Egypt.

For more information about what will be taught in every subject this half-term, please refer to the Topic Overview.



### **Home Learning:**



- Like last year, we will continue to set 'nuggets' for English and maths on a weekly basis. As before, I know it is tempting to 'help' the children with their home learning, however, it does need to be their work! Century is intuitive - if children are struggling with a 'nugget' (concept) then it will adapt the questions accordingly and address any misconceptions.
- Children will come home with their log in details which can be found in the children's reading diary.
- Many of the children (and parents) love the topic home learning activities – these will be posted on Dojo at the beginning of a half-term and will be optional. We will continue to celebrate/display any work sent in.
- Children are expected to practise spellings at home via the 'Spelling Shed' website. Login details will be given to the children in the coming weeks. A copy will be put in their reading diary. A copy of the week's spellings will be put in children's reading diaries on a Monday. (Please ensure that they are in school).





• Children are expected to practise times tables regularly – ideally daily. Little and often – 3-5 minutes a day will make all the difference. Times tables are the essential building blocks that underpin every maths curriculum, yet children always find them a challenge. Times Tables Rock Stars is a maths programme that takes all the worry out of learning times tables and has a proven track record of boosting children's fluency and recall in multiplication and division.

Login details remain the same as last year, however a copy will be put into children's reading diaries and home learning books in the coming weeks. The children will have the opportunity to compete against their classmates, other classes and also the staff! The more you practise – the higher your score!

For your information, by the end of year 4, children will be expected to know their times tables up to 12 x 12. All children in Year 4 will take the National Multiplication Tables Check in June 2027.

#### Reading:

- Children will be expected to read at home at least 5 times a week. Ideally, this will be with/to an adult. Reading is to be recorded in your diary which will be checked and signed on a Monday. Staff will record how many times your child has read that week and write it in the box. Please ensure that diaries are completed, signed and ready to be checked on a Monday.
- The aim is to read at least 50 times in a term. Any children who read 50 times or more will be presented with a special certificate at the end of the term.
- Please note that it is absolutely fine for your child to record their reading, however we ask that you then sign their diary over the weekend ready to be handed in on a Monday.
- Children will participate in weekly reading sessions, where they will have the opportunity to discuss a text as a whole class.
- In addition to this, there will be opportunities for the children to read to themselves and 1:1 to an adult with a levelled book. We encourage the children to keep this book in their school bag so that it is always available. Children will have access to other books in the classroom and library that they are welcome to take home to read. Please ensure that books are returned so that others may enjoy them too.

#### General:

- ❖ Children do not need to bring in stationery, however, they may like to bring in a small pencil case of colouring pencils to keep in their tray. Some children also prefer to have their own glue stick and whiteboard pen. Please ensure that these are labelled so the children know what belongs to them.
- ❖ Our PE days are **Tuesday and Thursday**– please ensure children have the correct kit and footwear. (However, sometimes there are changes to the timetable so PE kits need to be in school all the time).
- ❖ No jewellery is to be worn for PE lessons
- ❖ Children may wear a watch and a pair of small silver/gold stud earrings for school – no bracelets
- ❖ No makeup (including tinted lip balm and nail varnish) is to be worn
- ❖ Hair is to be tied up (with an appropriate coloured and sized hairband) at all times during the school day.
- ❖ Your child should bring in a snack to enjoy during break time. This may include: a piece of fruit or vegetable, plain crackers, hummus, unprocessed cheese or plain rice cakes. A copy of the school snack policy can be found on the school website.
- ❖ Your child will also need a named bottle filled with water every day. They will be able to access and refill their water bottle throughout the day.
- ❖ Children will be dismissed from the back playground at the end of the school day. A reminder to please let Mrs Doyle know if someone different will be collecting your child and the message will get sent to us. We will not allow children to go home with a different adult without receiving a message from the school office.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to write a note in your child's reading diary, send an email via the school office ([office@downham-ceap.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@downham-ceap.essex.sch.uk)) or catch us at the end of the day once all the children have been collected.

We are incredibly excited for the year ahead and hope you are too!

Kind regards,

Mrs Crook and Mrs Chapple