



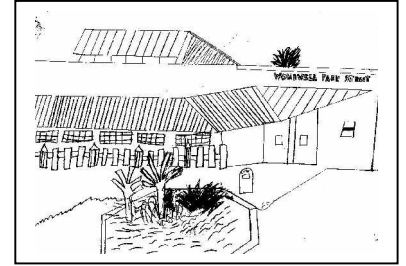
BRONZE

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Dear Parents and Carers of *The Perfect Penguins*,

Autumn Term 2009

I hope you find the contents of this letter useful when talking to your child about what they are learning this term. Although this is not an exhaustive list, it should give you some ideas on how to support your child's learning at home so that they make even faster progress. Please feel free to ask the class teacher if you need any further information or help.

English: We will be learning how to write information texts and will be designing a travel brochure. We will also be working on the use of basic punctuation.

- At home, you could help by collecting an example of a travel brochure and discussing the kind of information that is included. If your child does any writing at home, please encourage them to use capital letters and full stops at all times.
- Make sure that your child is reading regularly at home. They should bring a new book home on a regular basis, at least once a week. Listen to you child read at least twice a week but also let them read independently, both out loud and in their head. Ask them to tell you what it is they have just read.

Spelling: We will be working very hard to improve our spelling through daily sessions in which the children will work in small groups, focusing on a particular spelling pattern.

- At home, please help your child to learn any spellings that are sent home as part of their spelling group work.
- Over the next week, we will be re-testing children on all words from the *Reception* and *Key Stage 1* word lists. Once complete, I will send you a new copy of the leaflet, indicating which words your child can spell and also, which ones they are struggling with. It is extremely important that you work with your child on any words they are finding tricky, as they are expected to be able to spell all of these words before beginning Year 3.

Maths: We are learning to read, write and order numbers, and to add and subtract combinations of 1 and 2-digit numbers. In this term great emphasis will be put on developing mental skills by increasing recall of key number facts, such as pairs of numbers that total 20 / 100. We will also be practising and securing knowledge of the 2,5 and 10 times tables, and beginning to learn the 3 times table.

- At home, practise addition and subtraction with numbers up to 20, eventually your child should be able to give you the answer instantly without working it out.
- Encourage your child to notice numbers in different places (on road signs, food packaging etc) and ask them to read the number to you. Ask questions, such as 'is that larger or smaller than ___?' 'What number would come just before that one?'

- Practise times table facts starting with 2's and moving on as your child is secure. When your child knows the times table by heart, they should be able to recall facts to answer random questions within 5 seconds.

Maths Groups: The children will be split into 2 groups for daily maths lessons. Some of the children will work with Mrs Clark and the rest will remain in class as normal. This will allow us to work more closely with the children in order to meet their individual needs.

Science: We will be finding out how shadows are made.

- At home, encourage your child to notice when shadows are created by different objects. Try looking at the shadows at different times of day.

Topic: We are learning about the reasons why people visit South America. This will include learning about the rainforest and the animals that live there, and also about the carnival which takes place in Brazil each year.

- At home, any information you can find about South America will be of great benefit to your child's knowledge and understanding.

ICT: We are learning how to manipulate text, changing colour, size, font, layout etc and how to insert pictures. If you are interested in developing your own ICT skills generally please let me know as it may be possible to set up opportunities after school for you to use our facilities.

Other Information

- We have 2 experienced teaching assistants working in class – Mrs Dodson and Mrs Clayton.
- Our PE days are Tuesday and Friday. Please make sure children have black shorts, white t-shirt and pumps in line with the school policy. On Fridays PE will be outside and children may bring a tracksuit and trainers in addition to their normal PE kit on that day. No jewellery to be worn on these days. If your child has earrings, please make sure that they are removed before school on PE days.
- Your child is responsible for changing their own reading book and can change it first thing on a morning as they come into school. This can be done as often as needed, but please encourage your child to finish the book before changing it for another one.
- Homework will be sent out on a Friday and will be based around the learning that has taken place in the week. Most homework tasks will ask your child to produce something that shows what they have learnt over the last week, this could range from a piece of writing to making a model. We feel this approach will be more interesting for the children and will encourage them to talk to you at home about their learning. In addition to this, please help your child to learn any spellings that are sent home, practise the times table that they are currently working on and encourage them to read on a daily basis.
- *Please could I remind you that your child needs to have a pair of black pumps to wear indoors. There are still a large number of children without these.*

Things to look forward to this term:

Tuesday 29th September – Trip to Chester Zoo!

Tuesday 20th October – Autumn Coffee Morning

2nd – 6th November – Writing Week

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Vaughton
Class Teacher