



Friesian Class Autumn Term 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you all had an enjoyable summer break and look forward to catching up with you all in the coming weeks.

In the first part of this term, we will be using our immersion curriculum time to focus on:

- Being well rounded citizens and learning rights and responsibilities
- Being scientists and investigating electricity
- Being historians and investigating the impact of Roman rule in Britain
- Being artists and developing our mark making skills, whilst learning and using associated techniques
- Being musicians and developing our ability to read musical notation, follow rhythm and tempo, and learn about the musical style of pop.

We will continue to share information sheets regarding each topic area via our class webpage (www.amberleyschool.co.uk/friesians), which is updated each week, and the school blog, which will also have downloadable copies of spelling homework. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the contact form on the page, email directly or catch us at the gate.

Outdoor Learning and PE kits

PE will take place on Thursdays and Fridays. On **Fridays**, we will continue to have outdoor learning, so children will need to **come into school in their outdoor learning clothes and shoes, and bring a change of clothes and shoes to wear for PE**.

Please be aware that when it is a little colder/wetter, it is particularly important that the children bring in a completely separate change of clothes and shoes for the two different sessions in case they get wet or dirty during outdoor learning – no one likes to be in soggy clothes or shoes all day!

Times tables

All Friesian class members are expected to continue to develop the speed and accuracy of **times table recall**. Regular practice of timetables helps children's fluency when working on more complicated problem solving and reasoning tasks. Quick fire questioning or in the car games will help your child to be more confident in recalling multiplication and division facts. There are also a multitude of games and activities online to help with the rapid recall, as well as many screen free dice and card games. Children's reading records will contain a **QR code to a timetables website** which we would recommend using regularly. This is particularly important for Year 4, who will sit the statutory times tables check later in the school year. The QR code uses a site similar to the actual test format which aids familiarity. Children are aiming to answer all questions at 6 second intervals.

Reading books need to be in school **every day**, and will continue to be changed twice a week (Monday and Thursday) according to need. Reading regularly is obviously the best way for children to improve their fluency and understanding. We will continue to hear each child read every week, but the greatest impact for developing these key skills is daily reading at home. We would be grateful if you could write in their reading record each time your child reads at home.

Spellings will be sent home each week for the children to learn at home before **testing on Fridays**. Children are asked to **write a sentence** for each of their spelling words. This should be written in their homework book, in pencil, using the same level of presentation and care as they would in school. They will need to **return their homework books on Thursdays**, for us to read. We would highly recommend that children use the Lietner method to learn their spellings, as this has proven very effective for longer term retention. The class will be shown what is involved during the first week back, and there is a short explanation video on the website should you wish to find out more.

Trips and events

We are lucky enough to have our first outing on Thursday morning this week when we will take part in a workshop with the Stroud Valleys Project to learn more about the flora and fauna of the common. If you are available to help, or think that you might be able to join us on subsequent trips, I would be grateful if you could get in touch, please, so that I can build a bank of willing volunteers!

We are, as ever, grateful for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, at any time, please feel free to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mrs K Crampton and Mrs J Harbord