



Widmer End Community Combined School and Pre-School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new year. We have an exciting and fun packed term ahead with lots of opportunities to learn in a variety of ways, in and outside the classroom. A lot of learning this term will be focused around The Amazon. This will be the topic we begin studying in Geography but will also be given attention in English, where children will build their knowledge, skill and understanding to write a persuasive letter asking people to protect our Rainforests. They will also have the opportunity to look at related poetry and will then compose their own. Art will also relate to this for the first part of the term. Your children will have the opportunity to visit the Living Rainforest to immerse them ever further in their learning experiences. You will receive further details about this as we head on into the term.

Times Tables

I cannot emphasise enough how important regular practice is when it comes to times tables. Please ensure that your children are practising at home at least 3 times a week. This can be done through online games, rehearsing with someone or writing them down. I do not mind but may I ask that you or your child complete the relevant section of the planner every week to reflect this practice.

Spellings:

Please take the time to read this section carefully. We had a variety of layouts and approaches last term. I have explained the expectation to the class so they are aware of how this needs to be done!

These will be reset on SPELLING SHED every **Monday**, with completed and handwritten spelling sentences handed in every following **Monday**. They will then be tested through a handwritten spelling test, every week (usually a **Tuesday**). Every spelling must be written out a minimum of 3 times and then used in a written sentence (underlining the spelling word) eg: Spelling word is 'because.'

Because because because

The little girl ran to her Mummy, because the dog was there.

Please ensure children are using high quality sentences with a good level of interesting and varied language. Please encourage them to proofread their work for punctuation. I expect a minimum of a full stop and capital letter for EVERY sentence.

Reading Records:

Reading books and reading records should be brought into school **DAILY**. They will be checked and signed on a Monday. Children should read to you aloud from a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts for a minimum of 10 minutes at a time. Please do not feel limited to solely reading the books sent home from school, please include any other reading your child achieves in addition to the school provision. Every time your child reads aloud to you, make sure this is signed for in the reading record. Take time to discuss the texts, addressing style, language, and punctuation and ensure they are confident in their understanding of words and passages throughout. Year 4 children are required to read a **minimum of 3 times a week at home**, to an adult, as part of their home learning. Please ensure this is the minimum number of times you read together, as this skill underpins learning across the entire curriculum. It is also an opportunity for some quality time together – please see it as something you can enjoy together.



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Please ensure that your child has all the equipment they need for the school day. Pencil cases will continue to come home every Friday to be checked, pencils sharpened and equipment restocked. It is essential this happens so children are readily equipped for their learning in the week ahead. We seem to be particularly lacking with glue sticks and white board pens!

Equipment needed for every day in class:

1 x simple, flat and clear (transparent) pencil case

1 x HB pencils (Staedtler Noris – black and yellow are good quality pencils and they will last longer than other brands.)

1 x 30 cm rigid plastic ruler (Please do not buy a foldable one, they don't last and are not good for accurate work.) 1 x Pritt glue stick (biggest you can afford)

1 x Small pair of scissors (kid-safe)

2 x black dry-wipe pens (These run out fairly quickly, so please have some spares ready for the whole year.)

1 x Whiteboard rubber or a small microfiber cloth

1 x set of good quality colouring pencils

1 x Art overall or old shirt

1 x ziplock folder or popper wallet for bringing home things

1 x set of highlighter pens x 3 (pink, yellow and green)

2 x handwriting pen - STAEDTLER 309-3 Handwriting Pen In Blue.

2 x Purple polishing pens (a purple biro is perfect for this job)

PE / Games clothing:

Children are to come in dressed for PE on MONDAYS and FRIDAYS. Children will be participating in indoor and outdoor PE so please ensure they are in clothes comfortable and suitable for the weather that day.

Break and Lunch:

A named water bottle and fruit or salad snack must be provided daily. This is really important as it will help your child remain focused throughout the day.

If you have any further questions or concerns please get in touch via the school office. I very much look forward to continuing to share your child's journey with you and look forward to a positive and productive term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Oxby

Year 4 Class Teacher