



Newsletter

First and foremost, a warm welcome to Raven and Jackdaw Class. As the children progress through the school, many things will remain unchanged whereas other routines will change. It is hoped that this newsletter will allay any concerns and answer any questions you may have.

Home Learning:

This area remains broadly similar to what you will have experienced in previous years. For the newcomers to year five, the children will have a 'Home Learning Folder' in which they complete their challenges. Home learning challenges are to be handed in on Monday; they will be returned to the children on the Friday with the next instalment of homework. Typically, the challenges will comprise of maths or English which tend to align with the current subjects being studied. Rewards will be acknowledged for those who hand their work in on time and to a high standard. The rationale behind home learning challenges is that of preparing children for the inevitable 'homework' that awaits them as they move closer to secondary school.

Reading:



Reading is a school priority. Opportunities for reading occur daily and serve to help settle the children after their lunch break. In the immediacy, the children have been allowed to choose their own books with the caveat that they select responsibly (something appropriate to their level of reading). Additionally, we would encourage the children to read from a

variety of genres. When moments occur, we aim to listen to the children read on a one-to-one basis. As you might expect, time is short with all that is expected from the curriculum and we encourage parents and children alike to initiate reading whilst at home for pleasure (before bedtime is ideal). We will check in with the children from time to time to see how they are progressing with their books. Again, responsibility for their own learning is encouraged as the children move into upper

key-stage two. Although we have a wide selection of books in class for the children to read, they are welcome to bring their own to school every day. To further compliment their reading, we have rota system which sees the children visiting the library (Strood) during their time in year 5. Emphasis is placed on the understanding of the text rather than the ability to relay the words written on the page.

Spelling:

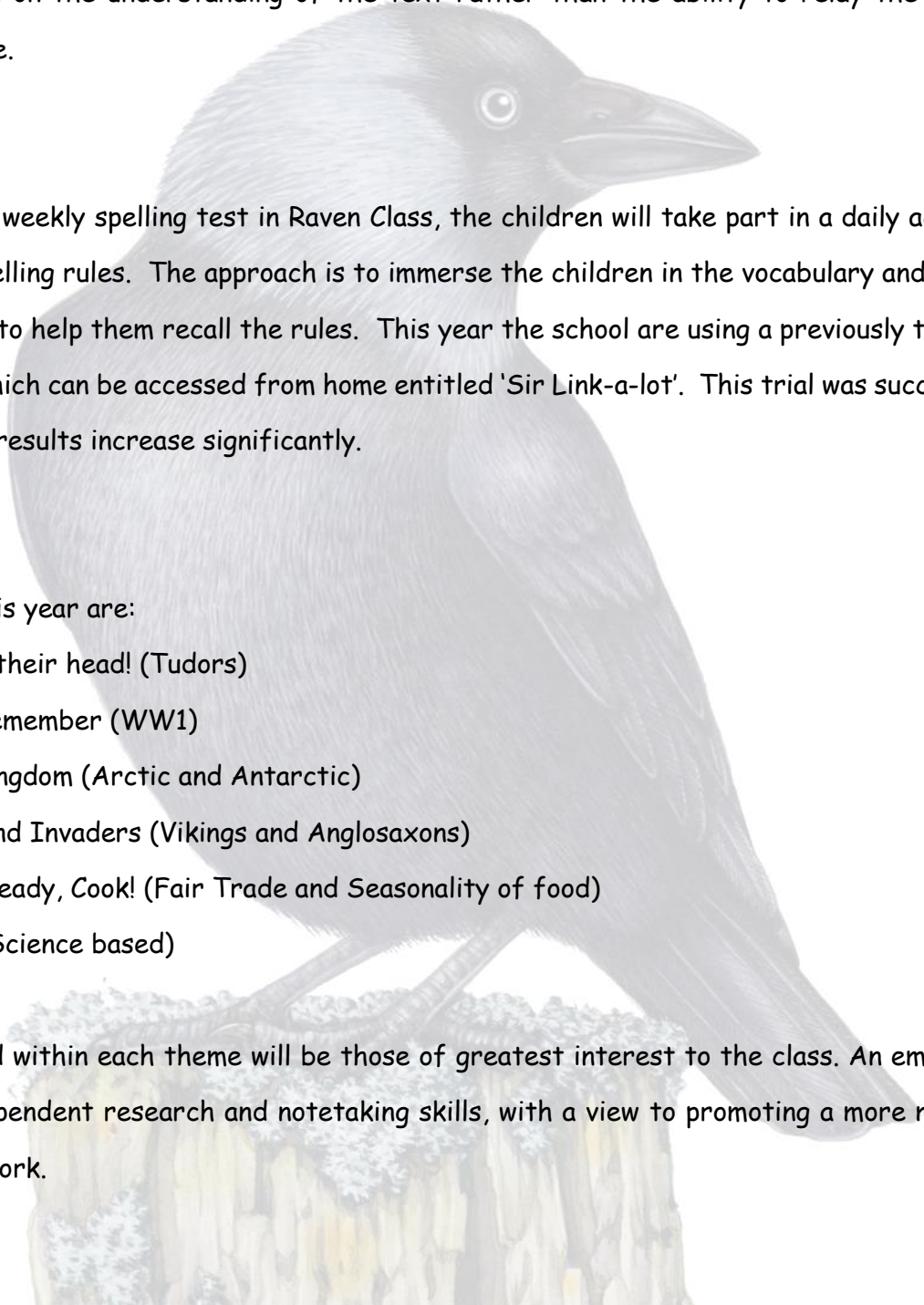
Whilst there is no weekly spelling test in Raven Class, the children will take part in a daily activity around specific spelling rules. The approach is to immerse the children in the vocabulary and origin of words, in order to help them recall the rules. This year the school are using a previously trialled on-line platform which can be accessed from home entitled 'Sir Link-a-lot'. This trial was successful which saw spelling results increase significantly.

Themes:

Our themes for this year are:

- Off with their head! (Tudors)
- We will remember (WW1)
- Frozen Kingdom (Arctic and Antarctic)
- Raiders and Invaders (Vikings and Anglosaxons)
- Ready, Steady, Cook! (Fair Trade and Seasonality of food)
- Eureka! (Science based)

The topics covered within each theme will be those of greatest interest to the class. An emphasis will be put on independent research and notetaking skills, with a view to promoting a more mature attitude to their work.



Stationery:

All the necessary stationery is supplied to the children. However, if your child has a specific handwriting pen that they prefer to use, then please send this in. Please ensure it is either black or blue ink.



Uniform:

Regulation and advice around clothing and equipment needed at school can be found on the website under 'essential information'. Regular checks will take place to ensure that this is being adhered to. If your child is unable to wear the directed uniform, then please send them in with an explanatory note.

PE Kit:

PE normally takes place every week. We would ask, that you ensure that your child has their full PE Kit in school every day, in case of an impromptu PE session. Earrings are not to be worn during PE. If your child is unable to remove their earrings themselves, we ask that they do not wear them to school that day, or bring in tape to cover them.

Swimming and Forest School:

Raven Class will be swimming during term 1 (commencing week 2 for five weeks). In addition to their normal swim kit, children will be required to bring a swimming cap and goggles. Jackdaw Class are still awaiting their dates for swimming. In the meantime, Jackdaw Class will be going to Forest School on a Monday (starting week 2). We will send more details about clothing as this date nears.

Planning Time:

Mr Roddick and Miss Jennings planning time will take place on a Tuesday afternoon. Miss Jennings will also have further planning on a Wednesday morning.

Teaching Assistants:

Mrs Dawson will be the TA for Raven Class. Mrs Burton will be the TA for Jackdaw Class. There may be occasions where swaps may be required for individual lessons to facilitate class trips etc. Mrs Jarvis-Baker (Mrs J.B.) will also be assisting with a range of interventions that arise across both classes.

Mathletics:

The school currently subscribes to the online learning platform: 'Mathletics'. This is an extra-curricular activity for children wishing to consolidate or further their mathematical understanding. Those who 'go the extra mile' and participate in Mathletics will be recognised and rewarded. Children can easily obtain their logins for use at home.

Rewards:

Raven and Jackdaw Class have a slightly different way of rewarding. Either way, both acknowledge hard work and good behaviour.

Mr Roddick & Miss Jennings

