Marldon C of E Primary School

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Within the love of God, working together, growing together, for all to flourish.

September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see all the children this week and I hope you enjoyed a restful summer holiday. The children have all had a fantastic first few days in Mercury Class as Year Two's and they are settling in well to their new surroundings!

As a federation we follow the Learning Challenge Curriculum (LCC) for all of our topic work, and for the Autumn Term in Science, Mercury Class will be answering the questions- **'Why do animals choose the habitats they have?'** and **'Why is it important to keep our bodies healthy?'**
In Geography our question is **'What goes on at an airport and train station?** and in History – **'How did the Victorians influence our life today?**

In English this term we shall be looking at:

- Poetry
- Information Writing
- Story Writing
- Recounts

In Maths this term we shall be looking at:

- Number – Place Value
- Number – Addition and Subtraction
- Geometry: Properties of Shape

Our PE sessions this term are on a Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure that children come to school in full PE kit on these days.

Book Club

At Marldon, we aim to inspire children's love of reading and this is at the heart of everything we do. On Friday mornings, we will be continuing with "Book Club". The aim of Book Club is to involve children in sharing a book that they have enjoyed reading with their peers. This could be a story, a poetry anthology, a graphic-novel, a non-fiction book or any other book that they have enjoyed. They might choose to share a book they have found in school, or one that they have at home.
I will produce a rota for the children to bring these into school (2 children per week).

During school hours I will remind children to drink plenty of water. If your child would like to bring their own drink, please send water, in a named drinks bottle.
Key Stage One will still be having free fruit - you are more than welcome to provide your child with their own piece of fruit. Can I take this opportunity to remind you that we should have no nuts in school.

Every Friday one child will be selected to take home the class 'Special Box'. They will have the opportunity to choose something that is special to them and share it with the class. This is to be brought back on a Monday. By doing this I hope to encourage your child to enjoy writing so please support them but allow them to do this independently where possible.

I thank you for your support with listening to your child read daily at home. In order to enable your child to develop their comprehension skills, please talk about the book, the characters and their favourite part to see how well they have understood the story. (The children have a comprehension bookmark which should help with this). Please record this in their reading diaries so I can see their progress.
In Year 2 we will change the Read Write Inc Book Bag Books on a Friday and the banded books on a Monday. Children on AR will quiz and change books when needed. We thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.

The children will be having weekly homework which will start on Friday 12th September. I will set the homework on a Friday and the children will need to return it by the following Wednesday. There will be three SAT's style homework books which will be kept in the children's trays in the classroom. I will send a covering letter home with their first homework next week.

I have included in the children's reading diaries their individual passwords for Purple Mash (this is the Computing scheme we use in school), Numbots (an app that is great for practising their Maths skills) and Spelling Frame (a great spelling app which we will be using in school too). **Please do not try to use Times Tables Rock stars yet; we will be accessing this later in the year.**

This year we will be having specific 'spelling' sessions during the week. On Monday a particular spelling pattern will be introduced and practised altogether as a class. The children will then take home 5 spellings to learn (3 spellings linked to the spelling pattern and 2 common exception words). We will revisit the spelling pattern on a Friday using a range of activities to reinforce their knowledge, ready for the spelling test the following Monday.

As you can appreciate with free school dinners being available to all children in Key Stage One, it can take a long time to decide what the children are having for their lunch option. Please read through the menu at home so the children have an idea of what they want and so you can check that they will like that option.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children over the course of the year. If you have any concerns/questions please do not hesitate to catch me at the end of the day or alternatively you can email me. (sam.hayman@marldon-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Kind regards

Miss Hayman