

**Learning together
In the Middle Unit at
Tibberton C.E. First School**

September 2020 - July 2021

Dear Parents,

We want to make sure that your child's time in Middle Unit is both happy and highly productive.

The children in our class are looked after by a supportive and caring team. We are also extremely fortunate to have talented and experienced teaching assistants to help us. Teaching in the Middle Unit is shared between Mrs Jordan (Monday & Tuesday) and Miss Sabine (Wednesday to Friday). Mrs Forrest is our teaching assistant. Mrs Forrest is a trained teacher and will sometimes cover the class in our absence.

So that we can give maximum support, please inform us via the school email (office@tibberton.worcs.sch.uk) of any issues that might affect your child's well-being or education.

Please find overleaf some important information about life in the Middle Unit. We want to ensure that the class runs efficiently and smoothly, maximising the time that we are able to devote to the children and their learning.

Due to the current COVID 19 situation there are some new routines/systems etc which are in place at school and which may not all be covered in this letter (eg arrival/departure procedure, lunch etc). Please refer to the specific documentation regarding COVID 19 measures which has already been sent out.

We look forward to a happy, successful year with your child.

Yours sincerely,

Erica Sabine, Rhiannon Jordan & Jan Forrest

Independence

In Middle Unit we try to foster and support the growing independence of your child. Each child has their own tray which contains the equipment they need to complete their activities eg pencils, rulers, whiteboards etc. Children are encouraged to unpack their bags themselves, placing their reading books & records in the correct box, taking charge of their own water bottles and snacks and packing up their belongings and any homework/letters etc at the end of the day. Adults are always on hand to help but please encourage your child to take responsibility for their own belongings and praise them when they do.

Classroom Routines and Consistency

Teachers will ensure consistency and stability in the classroom via:

- regular meetings
- shared communication book
- shared planning

Children will be kept aware of the classroom routine to ensure a seamless 'crossover' via

- clear explanations and information
- visual timetable
- days/photos on the door
- weekly timetable
- consistent routines and rules

Phonics/Handwriting

Children will have a daily 20 minute phonics session first thing in the morning. Mrs Jordan and Mrs Forrest teach the Y1 phonics and Miss Sabine and Mrs Forrest teach the Y2 phonics. Spellings will be linked to the patterns studied that week.

Children will learn new handwriting patterns every Friday and have the opportunity to practise their new letter/join every morning in registration. They will bring handwriting sheets home every Friday - these are for practise and do not need to be returned to school.

English and Maths:

English and Maths are taught daily in the mornings. Our planning is shaped by the National Curriculum and we aim to make work as topic based as possible so that it is enjoyable and exciting for the children. Lessons will be structured to promote the progress of each individual whatever their ability. Children will often be grouped by ability in these lessons to optimise individual learning - the grouping may change due to the specific area being covered and according to the needs of the child. English is shared by Mrs Jordan and Miss Sabine whilst Mrs Jordan will lead all maths sessions.

Topic:

Much of the children's learning is topic based. Topics tend to last for half a term and we aim to follow the children's interest whenever possible. Topic info will be placed on the website. Our current topic is "Fire". As with all subjects, our planning follows the National Curriculum and is delivered in as creative, varied and child-led way as possible.

P.E. Sessions:

We aim to go outside for one P.E. session each week. MU will do outdoor P.E. on Mondays and indoor P.E. on Fridays. Currently, children are being asked to come to school in their P.E. kit on their P.E. days to minimise contact. If and when children bring their P.E. kit to school, please can they be brought in a named P.E. bag. As with all uniform, all items of clothing should be named. Children may wear tracksuits of any colour. If your child has earrings they will need to be removed or covered for PE lessons. A pair of old trainers is useful for outdoor sessions.

In addition to the standard school sports kit (which is black shorts, red t shirt and black pumps and should be kept in school at all times), girls need to keep:

- *Socks in their P.E. bags (if they wear tights).*
- *A hair elastic (for long hair).*

Woodland Work

All Year 1's will be taking part in Woodland Work every week on Tuesdays. The children will need a pair of named wellies to keep in school, plus a waterproof jacket and old clothes for these sessions. They should come to school in their Woodland Work clothes every Tuesday unless otherwise advised.

Homework: Each week the children will be given:

- A class reading scheme book (see details below).
- A weekly list of spellings linked to their spelling and phonics sessions. Please help them to learn these and give them oral and written tests at home. Spellings will be tested on Tuesdays.
- A handwriting activity directly linked to our class session.
- Maths homework book - 1 session per week (given out on Friday to be completed and returned by the following Tuesday).

'Reading scheme' books:

Every child is able to choose a book from the wide selection in our reading scheme. The books are banded according to difficulty level and your child will know which band to choose from. Please trust our judgement as far as levels are concerned as we are committed to securing a strong ability to decode and comprehend in each child.

We would greatly appreciate your support in hearing your child read their book as often as possible. Please provide any feedback in their reading record book and sign and date to confirm that your child has read. It would also be helpful if you noted which page your child has read to or whether they have finished the book.

Please could you make sure your child brings their book and reading record to school every day even if they have not finished it. We read with the children individually as well as in groups and we will let date and stamp their reading records to let you know when we have heard them read. Reading books will be changed every Monday and Friday.

Guided Reading

As well as the above each child will read in a group with a teacher once a week. These are a separate set of books and we focus on in-depth comprehension as well as decoding.

School library books:

Children will have regular opportunities to bring home a school library book. These books are chosen by the children themselves and may vary very widely in difficulty of reading level. No written comments are expected. Your child may only be able to read a little of the text and it is intended that you should enjoy the books together. Please return books when completed.

The Zone Board

In your child's class we have a zone board. All children start the day on the green zone. If they complete a good piece of work, show kindness or just somehow show an adult they are making the right choices, they will move up into silver or gold. The children can also move into the pink and red zones of the board if they make a bad choice for which they will receive consequences such as missing short amounts of playtime or 'time out' of an activity. If your child is consistently moving down the zone board, you will be informed.

Headteacher awards:

We have a weekly whole school awards system when individual children are praised for outstanding achievement. We acknowledge and praise effort or achievement in all areas of school life, be it academic, social or spiritual. Children will receive a special Headteacher's achievement certificate.

House Points and Houses:

Every child is part of a house. House points can be given by any adult in school for good behaviour, manners, kindness etc. Each week the points are collected and the winning team praised and celebrated. Interhouse competitions occur throughout the year.

Other needs:

It would be really helpful if your child could have the following with them in school:

- A painting overall (currently all MU children have a named overall in school - either their own or one we have provided so no need to send in anymore).
- A colouring book for wet days.

Please do not send in pencil cases/pens etc. Due to the current climate we are trying to keep the traffic of objects etc between home and school to the minimum.

And finally...

Unfortunately, due to the current climate, we are unable to deal with enquiries in person at the beginning or end of the day as we would have done previously. However, if you or your child has any problems or queries, please do email the office with the details and we will contact you as soon as possible to discuss.