



Diamond Class Spring Term Newsletter

Welcome to 2021 in Diamond Class. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and saw the New Year in in style (although maybe a very different style to the usual). It's lovely to have the children back, full of enthusiasm and chatter about their Christmas holidays and adventures. Although the world is a very different place at the moment and there may be some worries and anxieties about the return to school they appear to be limited to us grown-ups! The children appear keen to get back, catch up with friends and go about business as usual. Perfect!! Just as it should be! We should be reminded that we had a full term with no closures and we will continue to do our best to keep it that way ☺ The Diamond team thank you for your continued support in following all guidance in and out of school to keep our sparklies safe ☺ We were extremely proud of the children at the end of term. They had had a busy and successful first term and we are looking forward to the next.

We are now busy settling into the new term, recapping rules and routines of the classroom and reminding ourselves of procedures to keep us safe. It's good to be back to Diamond Class, the children have been keen to settle back to work and have remembered all the little things we aim to do to be "sparkly gems". We are looking forward to lots of indoor and outdoor play, keeping the germs at bay and establishing new zones to keep us active and engaged in our learning.



Now then, what can I tell you about the learning that will be taking place this term? We will start off reflecting on our holidays and the excitement of Christmas, our new toys and the special times we spent with friends and families. We will consider all the things we have to be grateful for and the things we want to take care of in the year ahead, including each other! With this in mind, and with a high regard for social and emotional well-being of our children in the current climate, it is then my intention to focus on two themes. Running alongside each other we will talk about "Marvellous Me!" and "Our Wonderful World!", the aim of course will be to think about the things we have to be positive about, the things we are lucky to have in our world and the things we have to look forward to. We are always keen to follow the children's own interests with regards to their learning and there have already been lots of discussions regarding their aspirations for the future and the jobs they would like to do when they are "big". We appreciate that children will achieve more when exploring something they are interested in, therefore we may deviate away from these themes but they will be central to their personal, social and emotional development and therefore mental well-being.

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Achieve

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A few reminders or requests about some of the daily routines in Diamond Class:

- Please make sure **ALL items are named** and checked regularly, including hats, gloves and scarves. ALL children need a warm coat. If your children come to school on a bike or scooter, helmets should be worn for safety. We will happily store these for your children.
- **Book bags** should be in school every day as they are used to send home reading books, story books, pictures and correspondence. Some of our keen little learners continue to ask for "homework" and you will find some little extras in book bags on occasions. Following Reception half term reports these may specifically be linked to their individual targets, or additions to classroom learning and topic work.
- **Reading books** will continue to be changed on request. Please note that as books start to have words and get trickier the children may need to keep them longer, looking at them alongside pink books and sound mats. It is essential that time is taken to support "blending" of sounds and recognition of the regular key words such as I, went, in, it, etc found in early readers. Blending can be a tricky process, but with frequent visits the penny will drop and it will fall into place. If initially d o g is "cat!" don't panic!!!! It's normal!!!!!! ☺
- The "**story sharing**" library will continue to be available on a Friday afternoon with these books being exchanged weekly or removed if unused. Please sign to say they have been shared ☺
- **Reception pink books** will be looked at on a Tuesday and Wednesday. They may not be in book bags that night as they are updated and progress recorded. Sometimes children use their pink books as a tool to aid them with mark making and writing. **Thank you** for the valuable support you provide your children at home, it really makes a difference to progress!
- Please make sure children have a named **water bottle** (containing water only) in the classroom for during the day. An additional drink of juice may be provided for lunch time if you wish.
- This term **PE kits** will be worn for our hall PE sessions. We have a session for Diamond on a Monday afternoon that takes place with a member of staff allocated to us through our partnership work with Carre's Grammar School (Jack) and is a fun experience for the children. We will also have a session on a Wednesday morning. **Diamond children are asked to come to school in their PE kits on these days.** As they will still be using indoor and outdoor environments I recommend a PE kit of their t-shirt/ polo shirt, jumper/ cardigan and then a pair of leggings/ tracksuit bottoms. The aim is to look like school uniform but to be suitable for PE without the need for changing. **This request is only relevant to children in Diamond class** as all other year groups have experienced changing for PE sessions before. We are very aware that children in Early Years can need lots of support with regards to changing and in the current climate are trying to minimise our "handling" where possible for the safety of all children and staff. Many thanks for your support ☺



- I know we smashed it last term and are hoping to do the same again but I must be realistic so Please note that **in the event of a school or bubble closure** for Diamond class then you won't be expected to sit in front of a computer for zoom lessons, this would not fit with the ethos of Early Years learning. I will however be in touch, available and sending learning ideas, tasks or challenges through twitter, email and tapestry. Please make sure you have these in place just in case ☺ **Twitter! @ali_winchelsea**
Packs to support such an eventuality are prepared so please keep the resources safe when they come home as they may prove useful for future tasks or learning set ☺

I appreciate that in these times it can feel more difficult to speak to me at the end of a day as we all adhere to social distancing and clear the playground quickly, it may also be more necessary than ever as we work together to make sure your little ones feel safe! Remember that if you need me for anything then please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or you all have my email address. I will always do my best to get back to you as soon as possible. Also if I am heading your way at the end of the day don't panic! It will only be a little something that has happened through the day for you to know, sometimes quite entertaining!

I hope that this information has been useful to you. The children have made a fantastic start to the New Year, new term and new learning and I can't wait to see their characters and skills develop. Watch these Diamonds sparkle!!! Happy 2021 to you all!!! Please stay safe!!!!



Alison Stewart