



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Wednesday 4th September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year and a warm welcome to Year 5. I've thoroughly enjoyed my first few days back in school, getting to know the children and starting our learning journey together, and I hope the children have echoed this at home. I am sure that we have a fun-filled year together ahead of us! Once again, I look forward to getting to know new faces amongst yourselves, as well as reconnecting with those of you more familiar to me.

You are likely to have already seen Mrs Harvey's newsletter, including some important points and dates for the upcoming term. I will reiterate some of those points in the hope for a smooth start to the new school year for us all and to hopefully answer any immediate questions you may have about the start of the Autumn Term.

PE:

There has been an early amendment to our PE days for this half term, which you should already have received notification of. PE for this first half term will involve a weekly gymnastics session at Richard Rose Morton Academy on Tuesdays, between 10 and 11am. These sessions begin on Tuesday 10th September and will run for 5 weeks, however we will continue PE in school on this day for the rest of this half term, once the sessions are complete. We will travel to and from the sessions by coach, therefore please ensure children arrive promptly to school on this day in particular, so we can ensure they have all they need before leaving. As usual, your child will come to school in their PE kit on PE days and will stay in these kits for the full school day. They are welcome to bring a change of jumper/ hoodie to change into should they wish. Please note that children may be required to wait outside for the hall to be opened, and so weather appropriate clothing is always recommended. The second PE of this half term will be swimming. Our 5 swimming sessions will happen over the course of one week, beginning on Monday 7th October and ending on Friday 11th October. These will happen at Woggle Goggle Swimming Pool, in Penrith. Again, we will travel to and from our swimming sessions by coach.

Reading:

I am sure that you agree that reading is incredibly important in assisting your child with their learning across the curriculum and that reading for pleasure is a vital part of this. To support with this, children can choose up to two books from our school library to read both at home and at school, and we encourage children to read at home, with an adult, as often as possible. Children should always have one book within their ZPD range so that they can then complete an Accelerated Reader quiz on this within school time. The second book (should they choose to have one) can be any book from the library at all, regardless of the ZPD range it falls into. Children may instead choose to read only their ZPD book, or enjoy an additional book of their choosing from home. If the second book does not fall into your child's ZPD range, we ask that they do not quiz on this, unless they have discussed this with their class teacher.

Water and snack:

The children's water bottles will stay with them in their designated place in class during the day and will be taken home by the children each night. Please can these be sent to school filled with still water only. There will be times throughout the day when children can refill these, if needed. As usual, children are welcome to bring their own healthy snack for playtime. **Please can you ensure that these do not contain nuts, due to allergies within the school community** – thank you for your cooperation with this.

Homework:

In Year 5, we ask that the children spend time (at least 30 minutes a week) learning their weekly spellings, which will be assigned to them on edshed.com (the spelling shed section). There will be a **spelling test**, usually on a Monday, **every TWO WEEKS** in class. This is a change from previous years, to allow children more time to rehearse and consolidate their spellings. Each half term, I will add a full half term's worth of weekly spelling lists to Google Classroom so that both you and your child can refer to the list, if useful. We also recommend that the children spend up to 30 minutes weekly on one of our maths platforms (either ttrockstars or edshed/ maths shed). Reading their ZPD book plus any other reading at home, with an adult and as often as possible during the week, is something we also encourage and we greatly appreciate your support with this.

Contact:

As your child's class teacher, I am here throughout the year for both you and your child/ren to answer any questions you may have or support in the best way that I can. If at any point during the school year you would like to request a meeting, an appointment can be made through the school office or by contacting myself directly, via email. Alternatively, if you wish to discuss anything that does not require a face-to-face meeting, please feel free to contact me using my email address (below), or by arranging a phone-call, and I will endeavor to reply as soon as possible.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you would like anything to be clarified further.

Yours sincerely,

L. Coulthard

Mrs L Coulthard