

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

September 2018-July 2019

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 Reading (Monday & Tuesday) and Miss Sabine (Wednesday to Friday).

Mrs Jan 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 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Vikki Reading & Erica Sabine

The grouping of children:

For general organisational purposes (lining up, moving about etc.), the children are placed in mixed ability and gender groups. The children usually learn in groups based on ability in subjects such as maths, reading and writing. They also work as a whole class, in pairs or in other mixed ability groups, depending upon the nature of the activity.

Literacy and Numeracy:

Literacy and Numeracy 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. Literacy is shared by Mrs Reading and Miss Sabine whilst Mrs Reading will lead all numeracy sessions.

Topic:

Much of the children's learning is topic based. The length of our topics varies and we aim to follow the children's interest whenever possible. Topic info will be placed on the website. Our current topic is "Fire". If you have any expertise in any of our topics you are welcome to come and talk to the class.

P.E. Sessions:

We aim to go outside for one P.E. session each week. Please ensure that your child keeps a tracksuit at school, in a named bag. 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 wellies to keep in school, plus a waterproof jacket and old clothes for these sessions.

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.
- A handwriting activity directly linked to our class session.
- A Maths homework activity.

'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.

We would greatly appreciate your support in hearing your child read their book as often as possible. Please provide any feedback in the accompanying red reading record 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. This is so we can keep track of how often they are reading each week.

School library books:

On occasion children may 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. They will miss short amounts of playtime as a consequence. If your child is consistently moving down the zone board, you will be informed.

Headteacher awards:

We have a weekly whole school awards assembly when individual children are praised for outstanding achievement. We acknowledge and praise effort or achievement and endorse self esteem and positive traits in front of the whole school. Children receive a special Headteacher's achievement certificate from Mr Gromski.

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 in our celebration assembly. 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 (possibly made from an old shirt with elasticised cuffs).
- A colouring book for wet days.

And finally...

If you or your child has any problems or queries, please do call in and see us, before 8.45am or at 3.00pm.

Should a matter require a longer discussion, it may be necessary to make an appointment. You can also pass on messages in the reading dialogue book.