

**Learning together  
in the Upper Unit at  
Tibberton C.E.First School.**

**September 2019 - July 2020**

Dear Parents,

Welcome, or welcome back, to the Upper Unit. We want to make sure that your child's time with us is both happy and highly productive.

**Mrs. Guinivan & Mrs Michell** are our teaching assistants who work with us and they are very caring and supportive.

For a number of areas of the curriculum (e.g. maths, some literacy, phonics and spellings) the class will be grouped according to expected learning outcomes. At other times children in both year groups will work together, although tasks will still often be differentiated according to ability. We aim to structure the work so that all children can take their learning further if they are able to.

The children are generally seated in groups consisting of mixed gender and age. Seating arrangements may be changed during the year and the children often move around the classroom for different activities. This helps to develop a whole class identity as well as giving the children scope for widening friendships and learning with children of differing abilities and interests.

If there are any problems, however slight, please feel free to come and see me at either **8:35am** or **3:00pm**. An appointment can be made should a longer discussion time be required.

I hope that the children will have a happy and a successful time in the Upper Unit.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Turner  
Upper Unit Class teacher

### **Personal and team motivation:**

House points are awarded for all sorts of reasons, both academic and non-academic, such as:

- \* full marks for a spelling or tables test
- \* good effort in reading
- \* being polite and well mannered
- \* good art work
- \* quick changing after PE
- \* acts of kindness

### **Head teacher Awards:**

These awards are given to acknowledge and praise outstanding effort or achievement, endorsing self esteem and positive behaviour in front of the whole school.

### **Our topics this year:**

**Autumn:** Fabulous Forests

**Spring:** Our Watery World

**Summer:** The Savage Stoneage

Much of the curriculum will be linked to or taught through these topics, although some subjects, such as mathematics, require more discrete learning and teaching.

### **Reading:**

During their time in the Upper Unit the children move from reading schemes to a much wider range of books.

i) The children continue to read in groups on a regular basis using books selected to help them to develop particular reading skills at an appropriate level. These **'group reading' books will be kept in school.**

ii) Children are given the opportunity to select fiction and non-fiction books to **take home** from our reading book bands. **Please ensure this book and the yellow**

**dialogue book is in your child's red reading bag every day even if not completed.**

The children's coloured book band is set by me, however, they are able to choose from a selection of books that appeal to their interest and reading capability. The ability to select an appropriate book is all part of their developing reading skills.

It is expected that your child will read 3 times each week at home. Please jot down the pages read in the red dialogue book and add a comment as you see fit as this helps me to monitor your child's progress and indeed enjoyment.

Please continue to talk to your child about the books that they are reading. As they become proficient as readers they will want to read silently to themselves more and more, but will still value times when you can help them to refine their oral reading ability as well as discussing the content.

All the children have the opportunity to select a book from the main library, this book is kept in their own drawer and accessed during quiet reading times throughout the week.

### **PSHE and Citizenship:**

Personal, Social and Health Education is given a high priority. It is covered through direct teaching, stories, drama, 'circle time' and occasionally through visitors to school. Topics covered include healthy eating, wellbeing, keeping safe, bullying, relationships, medicines and making the right choices - so that our children can learn to be healthy and responsible citizens.

### **French (Modern Foreign Language)**

We have fun learning phrases and vocabulary, songs and rhymes in our sessions of conversational French.

### **Swimming:**

I will take the Upper Unit swimming on Monday afternoons. There will be ten sessions in the Autumn Term. You will receive further details about arrangements for swimming. As well as their swimming clothes, towel and hairbrush/comb, the children may also bring a piece of fruit or other healthy snack to eat after their lesson. No oranges, crisps or chocolate bars please. A cagoule type coat would be useful on more inclement days.

### **Games/PE:**

Our games lesson is usually outside, either on the playground or on the field. The children will need strong trainers, and these might get muddy. During colder weather they may wear tracksuits of any colour. Please ensure PE/games kits stays in school.

### **PPA:**

My planning and assessment time will be on Thursday afternoons, when the class will be taken by Mrs Forrest and Mrs Guinivan.

### **Homework:**

We have a weekly homework timetable that we will endeavour to adhere to throughout each term:

Monday: **New spellings**

Tuesday: **Reading**

Wednesday: **Reading**

Thursday: **Maths or Comprehension booklets (to return Tuesday)**

Friday: **Topic work**

**Times Table Clubs:** An instant recall of all times-tables facts is a very powerful basis for much of your child's future confidence with and understanding of number. It is for this reason that we are very specifically asking the children to get to know them thoroughly throughout Years Three and Four. We will look at them one at a time and children will be expected to practise for their number club session on Monday. There are a number of 'fun' ways of practising /familiarisation and we will introduce these. Please support your children in this very important area.

**Spellings:** These will be brought home each Monday, to be learned ready for a dictation task on Friday. Thursday evening would be a good time for a final check and practise!

I aim for the children to have success in their learning and don't want to 'catch

them out' in either spellings or times tables. On the other hand, significant personal effort is very necessary from all of the children.

**Topic:** On Fridays I will set a small amount of homework based on our current topic that we have been learning about. These pieces of work should be completed and handed in by the date indicated on the sheet.

**And finally.....**

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

**Should a matter require a longer discussion,  
it may be necessary to make an appointment**