

Friday 8th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn term newsletter for Lilac 4. It has been a busy and exciting start to the term and the children are settling in well to Year 5.

This term our topic is called 'South Africa' and the majority of the work will be based around this theme. The topic will begin with a Wow day on Monday, which will include a drumming workshop. During the term we will be finding out more about the country of South Africa, investigating animals and plants found there, learning some South African songs and culminates in creating our own South African restaurant on Friday 1st December 2017. We also hope to strengthen links with Tinis Primary, which is our partner school in South Africa, by writing letters to them and Miss Banfield and Miss McEvoy will be taking these with them when they visit the school at the end of October as part of our Connecting Classrooms Project.

We expect the children to read regularly and they will be bringing home a book from school and a reading record, which should be used to record every time they read. The children can fill in the majority of this themselves, but they need to be signed by an adult. Children will also be expected to practice their spellings and mental maths, including times tables, recall of number bonds, counting and rounding.

Children will need a PE kit in school all week. This should be a pair of shorts, a plain t-shirt, jogging bottoms and jumper and a pair of trainers. Long hair needs to be tied up and all jewellery, including earrings should be removed for health and safety reasons. Please make sure everything is clearly labelled and in a bag to prevent things from getting lost.

Children will need to bring a book bag or rucksack to transport any homework and their reading book to and from school on a daily basis. They will also need a water bottle, which should contain only water and can be filled up using the water fountains during the day as needed. They won't need to bring in a pencil case, as we will provide the children with all the equipment that they need for the year.

All children should be dropped off and collected from the cloakroom door. If your child is being collected by a different adult to usual or they are allowed to walk home on their own on that day, then please let the adult on the cloakroom door for Lilac 4 know.

You can find up-to-date information, as well as photographs and videos of things the children have been doing, on our school website - <http://www.ss-philip-and-james.oxon.sch.uk/>

Finally, but most importantly, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are both always available to discuss the learning of your child. We would much rather hear about any concerns or questions you may have, so please do approach us or contact the school office to make an appointment.

Yours Sincerely,
Miss Banfield and Mrs Pogose