



Selside Endowed Church of England School

Selside. Kendal. Cumbria. LA8 9LB

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Executive Head Teacher: Sarah Coleman

20th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the holidays. I hope you have had a great summer. I wanted to share with you the new routines and timetable in the 'Investigators' and 'Discoverers'.

We teach key skills lessons in Maths and English each day and provide opportunities to apply these skills across the curriculum in themed and independent learning activities. Throughout the week, the children have opportunities to read with an adult exploring books through questioning and discussion; alongside other reading activities as part of our English lessons. Our themed learning and Independent Learning enables us to study other areas of the curriculum, such as: science, geography, history, art, design technology and religious education.

Alongside myself, the children will receive specialist teaching in some subjects: Nicky Jones from QKS will be teaching P.E. This PE session will be on Thursday afternoons one week, and Monday afternoons on the other hence the two week timetable. Next week PE will be on Monday. We will also be swimming every Tuesday afternoon at the Leisure Centre, with our final session on Tuesday 20th November.

We always try to provide a more personalised approach to learning; lessons are carefully planned and include opportunities to both consolidate and extend pupils learning according to their individual needs.

As the children progress through school into KS2 we feel it is important for them to build on the 'Plan Do Review' days they have in the Adventurers and Explorers, to continue developing their personal thinking and learning skills. Therefore, in the 'Investigators' and 'Discoverers' we have continued to create opportunities for Independent choice and challenge. They have independent choice if they are early finishers and at other points in the timetable. We provide opportunities for both child initiated and open ended challenges.

Alongside this, we have time in the timetable set aside for Independent learning. Using our thinking wheel to support and scaffold their thinking, they embark on a personal project each term. It is really important to point out that these projects focus on 'process' not 'product'. During the process we are encouraging and supporting the children to develop their independence, responsibility and perseverance which are core to our learning philosophy at Selside.

We aim to involve your child in their learning as much as possible to help them become reflective, independent and effective learners. Your child has 'Personal Challenges' which they are working towards and we assess their progress through day to day observation, marking, assessment and discussion with the child. We also try to use the outdoors as much as possible, in all areas of the curriculum; having a pair of wellies and a set of waterproofs in school at all times enables us to do this.

Our topic this term is 'Celebrating Selside' where we will learn all about how our school and the surrounding area has changed over the last century, including the impact of World War 1 on our community. After half term our Independent Learning will focus on the history of school, so if you have





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any old photos or documents from school or know anyone who wouldn't mind being interviewed by the children please let me know.

What you can do to help at home:

- support your child with their reading by listening to them read and talking to them about their book
- practise weekly spellings (tested and changed on Thursdays)
- practise times tables and telling the time
- Maths and English homework tasks (set on Thursdays, handed in on Wednesday mornings). Children will usually have two pages to complete in each homework book which will be linked to the work we have completed in class. The questions on each page become progressively more difficult, so do not worry if the grey circled questions are sometime too tricky. If you feel able, once your child has had a go it is ok to help them (please just put a pencil star by the question so I know they had help) or they can bring it in to school and we can look at the question together.
- use Mathletics. Sometimes the children will have targeted work linked to our learning in class which I have set them, other times they can have a go at a section of their choice or use Live Mathletics.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please pop in and see me or telephone. Thank you for your help and continued support.

Best wishes

Anna Young

